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[WITH A SUPPLEMENT, SIXPENCE.]

THE RECONSTITUTED MINISTRY.

The bombshell thrown by Mr. Roebuck into the councils of the nation is still fizzing. Lord John Russell, who was the first to get out of its way, determined not to share the peril in company with Lord Aberdeen and the Duke of Newcastle, speedily lost his dread of it when these were removed. And now that it has scared away Sir James Graham, Mr. Sidney Herbert, Mr. Gladstone, and a few minor members of the Peel party, he has so far recovered his self-possession as to face it, not perhaps without repugnance, but with the hope, or the certainty, that Lord Palmerston will throw cold water over it;—soak its powder in wet;—neutralise its powers of ignition, combustion, and explosion;—and thus prevent it from scattering confusion and dismay on every side of it. Whether it will be allowed to do any execution at all remains to be seen; and if it should happen, in its portentous course, to dash against nothing more formidable or more valuable than the Peelites as a party, it will have done no irreparable, if any, harm. But whether it shall work to any good end depends not so much upon the Committee itself, or the Government, as upon the people. It is for them to decide whether the inquiry shall mean and do business, or whether it shall be a make-believe and a delusion. It is clear, however, that if no reform be introduced into the administration of the War until the Committee shall have given in its report, it might as well be non-existent for all the good it can effect in the state of the army before Sebastopol. Whatever reforms may be desirable to effect in that quarter must be operated by a more rapid agency. The Government must, on its own responsibility, conceive and execute the proper remedies for the gross mismanagement which seems to have pervaded every branch of the military, and no small portion of the civil, service, or, in spite of Mr. Roebuck and his Committee, the nation will continue to be disgraced in the eyes of Europe, and weakened in the estimation of its allies. It is for Lord Palmerston and his colleagues to rescue the country from this evil plight. The question remains—Has the Administration the sagacity, the will, and the power to do what is expected of it?

It can scarcely be said that the Government excites any great admiration for the genius of its chiefs or subordinates. No Minister is considered "heaven-born" until he have done his work. Contemporary praise or prejudice rarely allows the highest order of merit in any one. A Wellington and a Napoleon may snatch the verdict of applause and approval in their life-time; but men smaller than these giants by no more than a hair's-breadth must trust to posterity, rather than to their contemporaries, for the justice which they may deserve. It is, therefore, too soon to judge the present Ministry either in whole or in part. All that the wise can do is to bespeak it a fair hearing. Lord Palmerston is freed from the clog of the Peelites. He is not at the head of a Coalition—a

thing, or the name of a thing, which excites mistrust and ill-will in the minds of many respectable persons who scarcely know what it means, but who feel that they dislike it. The Ministry is as purely a Whig Ministry as it is possible to form, and includes names that command the respect, if not the enthusiasm, of the country. But if it is to stand the wear and tear of the war, Lord Palmerston must justify by his acts in power the splendid reputation which he has so honourably won in subordinate spheres. It is on his shoulders chiefly that the burden will rest; and it is around his head—if, as we hope, he shall prove successful—that the glory of success will gather. With colleagues such as Lord John Russell and Lord Clarendon, his Government will be respected abroad, whatever may be its character at home; and, with a homogeneous band of working colleagues in the principal as well as minor departments of Office, he may surmount the unpopularity that at present attaches to the somewhat too aristocratic and exclusive composition of his Cabinet. The country having reason to suppose that the recent secessions have rendered Lord

Palmerston's Administration as good and compact as it is possible to make it, he will have a fair but not a protracted trial. Much is expected at his hands; and what he has to do must be done speedily and successfully. The best intentions in the world will not save the present from falling, like the last Government, and being consigned to the limbo of all departed vanities and vexations, and vanishing, as Mr. Carlyle would phrase it, into "infinite space" and darkness.

The country is in a peculiar temper; and looks for VICTORY. Until that be achieved it will be difficult for any statesman, or set of statesmen, however great their genius, or pure their characters, to conduct its affairs with much profit or satisfaction. Sebastopol must be taken, or discontent will grow into danger; and many things more precious than the existence of a Ministry or of a Parliament will be called into question. The nation hungers and thirsts for Sebastopol. Its capture may atone for the mistakes which have been committed both by the Government and by the people; but, if that be not sufficient to allay the



SENTRY OF THE 4TH CHASSEURS D'AFRIQUE BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

evil spirit that has been raised, we shall yet have a dreary and a dangerous crisis to travel through. The great and original mistake is now sufficiently obvious. The expedition started too late in the year for any enterprise—except for a *coup-de-main*. As that was not attempted—though its success might, in the opinion of competent judges, have been easy—it became necessary to winter in the enemy's territory. For such a result no person whatsoever, in or out of power, was prepared. Marshal St. Arnaud expected it no more than Marshal Raglan; and the sagacious and far-seeing Emperor of the French counted upon it as little as the Earl of Aberdeen. Hence the scandalous breakdown of our administrative system, the loss of more than one-half of the bravest and noblest army that ever fought in the service of this or any other nation, and the discredit of our name and Government in every part of Europe. Our Allies the French—whose armies are organised on a far superior system, and the whole functionarism of whose Government is one vast coherent, cohesive, and central autocracy—suffered from the same blunder. They may have suffered less; and their shortcomings and calamities, whatever may have been their actual amount, may have been concealed by the judicious determination of the French General to admit no newspaper correspondents into the Camp; but the fact is notorious that British mismanagement has not been the only source of evil in the Crimea. The Russians, who are on their own ground, defending their own stronghold, and whose military system has absolute power at its summit, and a nation of serfs as its foundation and material, have suffered even more greatly than the French and British. We do not underrate what our own brave men have endured from causes which good statesmanship, no less than good generalship, might have prevented; but where, in the doleful record of the months that followed the glorious day of Inkerman, is to be found a calamity like that which has overtaken a Russian army 35,000 strong—more than 20,000 of whom have perished, and been utterly lost and consumed, in the snows of the dreary and barren steppes between Simpheropol and Perekop? The calamity will not much trouble the Emperor Nicholas; but, if a disaster half as serious had befallen a British army, what would have become of the British Constitution? and what would have been the character of the Revolution that might have been attempted by our outraged and offended people?

The nation, having opened its eyes to the real source of the evils it has had to lament, will cordially support any honest Ministers who shall efficiently and zealously commence the work of reform. The discouragement lately prevalent—and which has not merely surprised but annoyed the gallant remnant of our army in the East—will pass away. The immediate success of the Allies against Sebastopol is by no means improbable. Their ultimate success no one who knows anything of the matter has ever ventured to doubt. But, immediate or remote, Lord Palmerston must so work as to ensure it, or his Ministry will be wrecked amid a storm of discontent without parallel in our history. Those, however, who look beyond the Ministry—to the Army itself and its brave allies at the post of danger and glory—may find abundant justification for the hope that the possession of Sebastopol by France and Great Britain will soon cease to be matter of speculation. Victory on that spot will clear away a whole wilderness of difficulties. Such a victory we confidently believe we shall not have long to wait for.

A SENTRY OF THE FOURTH CHASSEURS D'AFRIQUE.

THIS specimen of Crimean costume is not very elegant, perhaps, but it seems admirably adapted for the purpose of keeping the poor sentries warm. The *capote*, with cape and collar; the sheepskin gaiters reaching above the knee, and well strapped to the leg; and the sturdy wooden shoes, impervious to damp, must make the men feel tolerably comfortable, even amidst snow, especially after such a hearty meal of warm nourishing soup as the French generally have once a day.

The horses are tied up to the rope behind, by the right hind leg, and are protected in front by an earthen mound, with a ditch behind it, which keeps the place dry. The 4th Regiment of Chasseurs d'Afrique numbers 500 sabres, and has lost only three horses since October last.

DAY OF HUMILIATION.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, contains the following order for a day of fasting and prayer:—

BY THE QUEEN—A PROCLAMATION.

FOR A DAY OF SOLEMN FAST, HUMILIATION, AND PRAYER.

VICTORIA REGINA.—We, taking into our most serious consideration the just and necessary war in which we are engaged, and putting our trust in Almighty God that he will graciously bless our armies both by sea and land, have resolved, and do, by and with the advice of our Privy-council, hereby command that a public day of solemn fast, humiliation, and prayer, be observed throughout those parts of our United Kingdom called England and Ireland, on Wednesday, the 21st day of March next, that so both we and our people may humble ourselves before Almighty God, in order to obtain pardon of our sins, and in the most devout and solemn manner send up our prayers and supplications to the Divine Majesty, for imploring His blessing and assistance on our arms, for the restoration of peace to us and our dominions. And we do strictly charge and command that the said day be reverently and devoutly observed by all our loving subjects in England and Ireland, as they tender the favour of Almighty God, and would avoid his wrath and indignation. And, for the better and more orderly solemnising the same, we have given directions to the most reverend the Archbishops and the right reverend the Bishops of England and Ireland to compose a form of prayer suitable to this occasion, to be used in all churches, chapels, and places of public worship, and to take care the same be timely dispersed throughout their respective dioceses.

Given at our Court at Buckingham Palace, this 28th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1855, and in the eighteenth year of our reign.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

The proclamation for Scotland is the same as the one for England, except as regards the mode of proclamation, which is as follows:—

Our will is, therefore, and we charge that, this our proclamation seen, ye forthwith proceed to the Market Cross of Edinburgh, and all other places needful, and there, in our name and authority, make publication thereof, that none pretend ignorance. And our will and pleasure is, that our solicitor do cause printed copies hereof to be sent to the Sheriffs of the several shires, stewards of stewartries, and bailiffs of regalities, and their clerks, whom we ordain to see the same published; and we do appoint them to send copies hereof to the several parish churches within their bounds, that, upon the Lord's Day immediately preceding the day above mentioned, the same may be published and read from the pulpits immediately after Divine service.

SALE OF THE SOUTH-SEA HOUSE.—The sale by auction of this important property took place at the Auction Mart, on Tuesday, and attracted an extremely crowded attendance. The biddings commenced at £25,000, and after spirited competition the hammer fell at £55,750. The purchaser was Mr. Marsh Nelson, the architect, but whether on his own behalf, or for a society, did not transpire.

The *Agra Citizen* publishes a curious case of a man named James Massy, who had formerly enlisted for the 98th Regiment and deserted, being claimed by an East India Company's sergeant—sent out to India—discovered not to be the real Simon Pure after all, and is now thrown adrift on the world to find his way home, without a penny in his pocket, the best way he can.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

The reports relative to the expedition of the Emperor vary so continually that it is impossible to form any positive opinion on the subject of his departure. That the plan is seriously contemplated, and every preparation made, there is, of course, no doubt; but *reste à savoir* if circumstances will not so modify these arrangements as to defer, or even entirely prevent, their execution. It is now said that if the expedition take place: it will probably start, *at latest*, within the first fortnight of March. The number of the Garde Impériale destined to accompany his Majesty is augmented from 3500 to 7000 men: they are to be commanded by the General St. Jean d'Angely. The Cent Gardes, who are also to form a part of the expedition, have had a new cuirass provided, to replace that worn on home service; and a portable printing-press, attended by compositors, &c., selected from the best workmen of the Imprimerie Impériale, has been fitted up for the occasion. It is reported that M. Piétri, Prefet de Police, is to be admitted to the Council during the absence of the Emperor, and that the Baron Laroncière Lenoury, a naval officer of considerable merit and distinction, and who took and brought back the Prince Napoléon in the late expedition, will probably be the officer appointed to command the vessel which is to convey the Emperor to the Crimea. It appears certain that if the voyage takes place the Empress will join it. Mesdemoiselles de Pierres and Montebello are the Ladies of Honour named as likely to attend her Majesty; and Dr. Rayer, one of the most skilful of the medical faculty, and the physician to the Emperor, is to accompany her to Constantinople. M. Hervoux, the Commissaire de Police, charged especially to watch over the personal security of the Empress, has started for the south to prepare his mission.

A letter written from Vienna states that the mortal remains of the Duc de Reichstadt are to be almost immediately transported thence to Paris, and that instructions have already been given to the Administration of the Austrian railroads to take such measures as may be necessary for the facilitation of the transfer. The immediate accordance of the Emperor of Austria with the demand of the French Sovereign is looked upon here with much satisfaction.

M. Thiers has met with an accident which has caused him much suffering, and his friends no less uneasiness. Returning home through the Place St. Georges, close to his residence, the celebrated historian slipped on the ice, which, a few days since, rendered the circulation both dangerous and difficult, and, falling, broke his arm in two places; the fever however, having been kept down, it is hoped that no very serious consequences will result from the accident.

The sudden thaw, following on the severe frost and snow, is, we regret to state, productive of most disastrous consequences in many parts. The bursting of the ice, the inundations, and the evil effects of the alternate frost and thaw on the plantations and fruit-trees, which, in many places, have lost quantities of their branches, have been most deplorable, and it is feared the ensuing season will, in various respects, suffer from the results of these most unfortunate accidents. In several of the provincial towns it was impossible, during some days, to supply the markets; and in Paris the price of certain provisions—poultry and vegetables more especially—has risen to a most embarrassing extent. A quantity of wild-fowl, swans, teal, wild ducks, &c., have been shot, and sold in the markets.

A great sensation has been created by the entrance and discourse of M. Berryer, at the Academy; the latter was most successful, and the orator was, on several occasions, obliged to pause, in consequence of the bursts of applause which greeted him. The reply of M. de Salvandy was far from being equally well received; it was found to be long, tedious, and nearly a repetition of a discourse made by him on a previous occasion of a similar nature—that, if we mistake not, of the reception of M. Dupanloup, Bishop of Orleans. The Princess Mathilde assisted at the audience.

It appears that, on his return from Paris, Vely Pacha is to go to Vienna as Minister Plenipotentiary—a post for which his talents, tact, education, and intelligence render him peculiarly fitted in the present delicate position of affairs; and that Riza-Bey, who was recently named to take a part, as Counsellor of the Embassy at the Conference at Vienna, is to come to Paris in the same capacity.

The new volumes of the "Mémoires d'un Bourgeois de Paris" (V. and VI), forming the conclusion of the series) exceed in interest any of the preceding numbers. They relate principally to the events of the reign of Louis Philippe, and to those that have succeeded it. Nothing can be more interesting, more graphic, or more intimate than the details of this most exciting phase of French history. One of the striking points in the narration before us is the collection of letters, notes, reports, and revelations, true and false, respecting plots, real and pretended, against the life and government of the Citizen King. Hardly a day, hardly a night passed, that General Athalin, whose personal devotion to Louis Philippe and his family, was extreme, and into whose functions entered that of supreme director of the private police, did not receive announcements of some freshly-devised conspiracy, many of these coupled with the names of some of the most eminent and best-known men in France. Love-letters from obscure adorers to the Princesses abound among these curious documents; and some of the most interesting private letters from various members of the house of Orleans, addressed to their personal friends, and to each other, enrich the collection: those of the ill-fated Duc d'Orléans to the Duc de Nemours; give a particularly exalted opinion of the head and heart of the Prince; and one in especial, written on the subject of the latter's marriage, is a *chef-d'œuvre* of feeling, morality, and delicacy. "Marriage," he says in conclusion, "is all or nothing. There is no possible division of affection or intimate intercourse. When a breach in this is made, however small it be, it is like an air-cushion pierced by a pin—all oozes out by this invisible opening; the burden alone remains, and all that rendered it light and easy is withdrawn for ever." Various documents and letters of the Duchess d'Orléans—many of them relative to the education of her sons, and all displaying this Princess in the highest and noblest point of view—exist in the collection; with some most curious anecdotes and appreciations of the character and career of M. de Talleyrand; and a variety of hitherto unknown details respecting the events of the 2nd of December. Altogether this work forms perhaps the most singular and interesting collection of *mémoires à servir* for the history of France within a certain period that can possibly exist.

HAYTI.

(From our own Correspondent.)

By the arrival of the United States mail steam-ship *Union* we have dates from Hayti to the 30th January. The question as to who is to be the successor of Emperor Soulouque has been the subject of conversation, and General Count de Dal Marie has been proposed, but rejected by the north and south part of the island, and it is supposed that he will not have any better success in the west.

The Chancellor is not of opinion that peace should be made with the Dominicans, and he will leave the country in April or May next for Paris, where a very handsome residence has been purchased for his reception. Unfettered by this influence, it is fully expected that Emperor Soulouque will yield to the recommendations of the English and French Consuls, and sign the treaty of peace with the Spanish part of the island, and thereby remove the only impediment to the prosperity of the country.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

The most recent letters from the Camp before Sebastopol bring very little definite intelligence relating to the projected operations of the Allies, Lord Raglan having ordered the utmost secrecy to be observed on the matter. Artillery and Engineer officers are forbidden to give information respecting the works to any one but officers entitled to demand it, and Infantry officers are not allowed to get any details concerning the works and armaments. These orders are so stringent that no officer, unless he be known to the sentries, is allowed to go through the English lines above Balaklava; and the restriction applies even to naval officers, and to all officers of regiments not actually stationed on the spot.

It is gratifying, however, to know that the condition of the troops had very much improved, and that the ground was likely to be dry enough before long to admit of military operations on a large scale. Even so early as the 6th ult. the only traces of winter remaining were patches of snow on the hillsides and in the ravines. The thermometer was at that date up to 52 in the day time, and since then it has sometimes risen above 70. There have been, indeed, several rainy days, but to all appearance the worst of the season is now fairly over, so that we may soon expect to hear of something important having been done.

It is said that General Niel, in his report to the French Emperor, recommends a change in the mode of attack. Hitherto the principal points of attack by the besiegers have been the south-eastern portion of the exterior line of defence of Sebastopol, the Quarantine Fort, and the Flagstaff bastion. It has been resolved that the direction of the attack shall be changed. The principal point of attack chosen by General Niel is Fort Malakoff. Four batteries are to be erected at the distance of 600 metres from that bastion, which will completely unite the French and English works, and enable them to concentrate an overwhelming force against the place, and render it untenable. It is calculated that these works will be completed about the 10th of March, or, in allowing for accidents of weather and unforeseen delays, at all events by the 20th. By that time the Allied forces will be prepared to open a fire, which it is to be hoped will be decisive, with no less than 400 heavy guns.

As to the French Emperor's journey, and the part he is to take in the operations of the siege, the following is the calculation:—In leaving Paris on the 7th, and proceeding direct to Toulon, it is supposed he will be able to reach Constantinople on the 14th or 15th, and Kamiesch by the 17th, or at all events by the 18th. By that time the works will be ready, or nearly so, and it is consequently believed that the formidable and irresistible attack which is in preparation will be made in his presence.

As regards the amount of the Allied forces before Sebastopol, it is difficult to obtain precise information. The following official return, however, shows the English army to be in a better condition than is commonly supposed:—

The grand total of our army in the East on February 6, was 44,948 men, thus composed—	1,242
Officers	2,535
Sergeants	735
Drummers	40,433
Rank and File	41,948
Grand Total	41,948
Of these, there were in hospital in Camp	5,773
And sick at Scutari	12,344
Making a total of sick	18,122
There were missing as prisoners of war	134
There were on command	2,498
Deduct	20,754
And there were present as an effective force 24,191 men, thus composed—	24,191
Officers	1,242
Sergeants	1,655
Drummers	535
Rank and file	20,762
Total effective force	24,194

And this was exclusive of the naval brigade. Our effective force before Sebastopol was, therefore, on the 6th of February, in round numbers, twenty-six thousand men. Of the 18,000 sick, a large number will, it is said, be fit for service when the weather becomes milder.

RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS FOR A GREAT WAR.

Prince Gortschakoff continues to affirm that his Imperial master entertains the most peaceful intentions, but still all the news received from Russia bears a warlike character. Telegraphic intelligence reached Vienna this week that 40,000 men are to occupy Revel and the neighbourhood. Troops coming from the interior of Russia will be concentrated along the coast from Riga, in order to prevent a landing on the part of the Allies.

Immense works of defence are being likewise erected all along the military road leading from Helsingfors to St. Petersburg, and which crosses on several points marshy grounds of a certain depth, impassable even during summer. An invading army may thus be continually stopped in its march through the country. Since last year Sveaborg has been considerably fortified on the land side. Between the fortress and Helsingfors there are, independently of an entrenched camp occupied by a division of Grenadiers, two parallel lines of fortifications, to which a regular siege must be laid before an Allied army can venture into the country.

The Grand Duke Constantine has lately paid several visits to Cronstadt, where military works are in course of execution, and several new batteries are being constructed. The Czar himself has also made several excursions there, in order to satisfy himself that the armament of the forts in and around St. Petersburg is being proceeded with. Nothing has been neglected on the Austrian side, between Volhynia and Galicia, in order to complete the necessary preparations. Among other works going on is the arming of the fortress of Michaelograd, and the ground which will probably serve as the theatre of war has been carefully surveyed and fortified with earthworks. For this purpose, all the militia between Mohilew and Witebsk has been provided with shovels and pickaxes, and set to work, the ground in those districts being clear and open. For the future, the naval force of Russia is not to be increased by the sailing-vessels, but by steamers only. The Czar has ordered the organisation of two new corps of sailors, constituted in a military manner, although they are to be composed of civil engineers and workmen intended for service with steam-engines. The effective strength of these corps is not yet fixed, as that will be regulated according to the number of steam-vessels; but their formation, as well as their organisation, has been already approved by the Czar. One division of these men is to be sent to the Black Sea and the other to the Baltic; and the whole will be under the orders of the Minister of Marine, the Grand Duke Constantine.

Recent advices from Warsaw are filled with accounts of the immense deliveries of provisions at the Polish fortresses. Vast magazines are formed at Ostrolenka. The writers mention, with undisguised admiration, the great quantities of spirituous liquors which the care of the Czar has provided for his soldiery, and which are daily conveyed to the central dépôts. From this it is inferred that Poland is expected to become the theatre of a great war. General Dekin, Inspector of Fortresses, reports that the three lines of defence, extending from Cronstadt to the Vistula, are in a complete and effective state.

The *Invalid Russ* publishes the regulation prepared by the Directing Senate, and ratified by the Czar, for the organisation of the "Imperial Mobile Militia," as the new corps decreed in the recent manifesto is to be called. The first clause of the document declares that the corps is raised for temporary service, in defence of the faith, the throne, and the fatherland. It is enacted that exemptions from military service hitherto permitted shall not apply in the present case, but that whoever is liable to the capitulation tax, or its equivalent, shall be liable to be called upon to serve in this corps. Merchants, Jews, and foreign colonists, who have been encouraged to settle in Russia, and received grants of land from the Crown, are excepted. To meet the expenses of the new corps, special "voluntary" subscriptions are to be made, for which the committees will open lists, and to which all persons are summoned to contribute. The subjects of the Emperor are abjured by their love of their country to make sacrifices corresponding to the occasion, and it is announced that the names and subscriptions of all persons will be published. The nobles, as soon as they have deliberated according to the directions foregoing, are to repair to their several localities, and exert themselves in forwarding the enrolment. The soldiers must not be younger than twenty, nor older than forty-five years of age. In the formation of companies, inhabitants of the same village are to be kept together as far as possible. Those who have no fire-arms of their own are to be furnished with a musket and bayonet. The employment of the militia is to be at the pleasure of the Czar, and upon the termination of the war all persons serving in the corps will be allowed to go back to their homes. Should any fall in battle, their families will receive a certificate absolving them from obligation to furnish a recruit at the next levy.

THE TURKISH VICTORY AT EUPATORIA.

The defeat of the Russians at Eupatoria, of which we gave a telegraphic notice in part of last Saturday's impression, is confirmed by a despatch of Prince Menschikoff, who admits that the General in command had found it prudent to "withdraw out of range, which was effected in the best order." This is the vague and modest style in which most of the Russian repulses at Silistria were chronicled by the General who found himself worsted there by the despised Turks.

Lord Raglan's telegraphic despatch gives the following brief account of the affair:—

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 18, 1855.

A force, said to be 40,000, of Russians, with a large number of guns, attacked Eupatoria at daylight on the 17th, and was repulsed with loss by Omer Pacha. The Turkish loss is said to be inconsiderable, but Selim Pacha, commanding Egyptian Brigade, was killed. The British men of war, under the Hon. Captain Hastings, covered both flanks with great effect. The action terminated at ten a.m., when the Russians retired a few miles.

Let this be compared with Prince Menschikoff's bulletin, and there will be no doubt as to the fact of the Russians having been soundly beaten. The Russian Commander writes from Sebastopol on the 19th:—

On the 17th the troops cantoned in the vicinity of Eupatoria were employed in a reconnaissance against the town, at a distance of 250 toises. They opened a cross fire, and the artillery in a very short time dismounted some of the enemy's guns, and also blew up five chests of ammunition.

General Chruliev, who commanded, knowing that Eupatoria had a garrison of 40,000 men and 100 guns, ordered his detachment to withdraw out of range, which was effected in the best order.

The *Moniteur* of Thursday gives the following account of the affair, which differs somewhat from Lord Raglan's despatch:—

The Russians had eighty pieces of artillery, six regiments of cavalry, and twelve regiments of infantry. The combat lasted five hours and a half. The loss of the Russians was 500 killed, with wounded in proportion. The Turks had eighty-eight killed and 250 wounded; they lost seventy horses. Selim Pacha and Rusten Bey were killed. The attack has not been renewed. The town is in a good state of defence. On the night following the Russians bivouacked without fires or tents during intense cold. On the following morning they withdrew towards Simferopol. Four vessels of war took part in the action.

The position of Eupatoria has, from the commencement of the campaign in the Crimea, been justly regarded as a point of extreme importance if hostilities extended to the northern districts of the peninsula. It was occupied without difficulty by the Allies on the 14th of September; for some time the garrison thrown into it consisted only of a few seamen and marines, who looked to the guns of their ships as their most effective protection. Gradually, however, by the energy of the officers in command, the place was made to assume the aspect of an entrenched town. A regular line of defence and field-works was traced round it, and when the Turkish army of Omer Pacha was conveyed there in detachments from Varna it found a complete system of fortification, rudely executed, but skilfully planned, and not easily to be wrested from the troops which had defended Kalafat and Silistria. This Ottoman army now amounts to 30,000, or even by some accounts to 40,000 men; and, as its operations have of course been concerted with the Allied Generals before Sebastopol, the presence of such an army on the right flank of the Russians must be a source of great embarrassment to Prince Menschikoff and his coadjutors. The attempt to force the lines of Eupatoria on the 18th has, however, signally failed, though it is said to have been undertaken by a large division of Russian troops and 70 guns. Should the operations of this corps be continued, it may not be unreasonable to expect that General Canbord and Sir Colin Campbell will seize the opportunity to act against the advanced posts of the Russian army, which are once more thrown forward and entrenched in our rear at the village of Kamara. If the statements last received from the seat of war are correct, the Russian forces are divided into three distinct corps—the garrison of Sebastopol, the army which is watching our rear from the valley of Baidar to Inkerman, and the corps which has just attacked the Turks at Eupatoria. If it be correct that there are 35,000 Russian soldiers in the hospitals, there can be no doubt that the enemy has suffered very severely, and that their effective force is as much reduced as that of the Allies. Indeed, were it otherwise, the Russians would doubtless long ago have renewed the attack on Balaklava. It is, moreover, reported that several thousands of Russian troops, on their way to reinforce the army, have recently perished in the snow which covers the vast steppes in the north of the Crimea. If these circumstances are correctly stated, the Allies will no doubt take the earliest opportunity of availing themselves of this dissemination of the Russian forces, and of beating them in detail.

One of the greatest of many errors committed by the Russian commander is that he attached no importance to the re-possession of Eupatoria whilst merely defended by a handful of men. If he had exhibited less haste to rush to the battle of Inkerman, Dannenberg's corps, coming from Perekop, might have attacked and probably carried the place at the end of October, and put an end to further consolidation there. Nothing, most probably, would have been required for that purpose but to have sent a strong detachment of this corps a short distance out of the direct route. The Russian army must, so long as Eupatoria is not retaken, be much lamed, and kept in check. Nor is it a little discouraging for that army that the campaign should be reopened, as the campaign against the Turks opened and closed, by the defeat of the Russian troops before a Turkish entrenched camp. If Liprandi, instead of Osten-Sacken, had commanded the assaulting corps, not only nearly all the same troops, but the same commanders, would have been opposed to each other, as was the case last year at Kalafat. Omer Pacha embarked from Varna on the 7th instant for Eupatoria, and therefore commanded in person.

RUSSIAN DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST SARDINIA.

The following circular has been addressed by the Russian Government to its foreign agents, in reference to the entrance of Sardinia into the Western alliance:—

The Court of — will no doubt share in the opinion of the Emperor as to the policy of his Majesty the King of Sardinia, on learning that this Sovereign, without any avowed motive or legitimate grievance, without the appearance even of the least injury to the direct interests of his country, had placed a corps d'armée of 15,000 men at the service of England for the invasion of the Crimea.

In coming to this determination, the Sardinian Government appears to have left to the public prints the task of informing us of an aggression which it has not undertaken to justify by a declaration of war.

We understand the motive of this silence.

The Court of Turin, we admit, would have found it difficult to reconcile its policy with the national feeling of its country. It would have found an equal difficulty in placing its present conduct in accordance with the old reminiscences of the House of Savoy.

By consulting the annals of its history, it might cite an instance of a Russian army passing the Alps; but, it is true, for the defence of Piedmont, and not to invade it.

In the councils of the Cabinets of Europe, under the reign of the Emperor Alexander of glorious memory, Russia still lent her faithful support to the independence of Sardinia, at the re-establishment of the House of Savoy on the throne of its ancestors.

Must we add, also, that if Genoa was at the same epoch reunited to the kingdom of Sardinia, it was because the Imperial Cabinet recognised the necessity of ensuring at once the greatness and the commercial prosperity of a country which the arms of Russia had contributed to liberate from a foreign yoke?

At the present moment, forgetting the lessons of the past, the Court of Turin is going to direct against us, from this very port of Genoa, an enterprise of hostility that Russia is conscious of not having provoked.

The attitude thus taken by the Sardinian Government, without, as we have stated, a formal declaration of war, would leave us even in doubt as to the name to be given to an auxiliary force destined for the invasion of our frontiers, under the flag of a country with which we have hitherto continued to live in peace.

However, if the Court of Turin loses sight of the principles and usages consecrated by the law of nations as the immutable standard of the international relations of States, the Emperor, for his part, holds himself bound to observe them.

With this purpose, his Imperial Majesty feels he must declare peace to have been broken in law and fact by this act of flagrant hostility, the sin of which falls on the Sardinian Government.

We leave it to bear the responsibility before the opinion of its own country and the whole of Europe.

Moreover, it is for the Allied Powers to appreciate the conduct of the Court of Sardinia, seeing that it has deemed it proper and honest to turn its arms against us at the very moment that the Imperial Cabinet was entering, at Vienna, on deliberations destined to open a path to the re-establishment of

peace.

The sentiments that tend to the accomplishment of this work of pacification

would appear to have been strangely misconceived by the Cabinet of Turin. In fact, whilst the Governments of Central Europe wisely interposed their legitimate authority to hinder one of the belligerent Powers from recruiting its legions in the bosom of States that desired to have their neutrality and entire independence respected, the Sardinian Government, less sparing of the blood of Italy, consents to shed it in a cause foreign to the political and religious interests of its nation. For, most certainly, it will not be pretended that the House of Savoy holds it honourable to serve the cause of Christianity, when it displays its banner by the side of that of the Crescent. Neither can it be said that she has at heart the defence of the weak against the strong, when she unites her armies to those of France and England.

This latter Power it is, if our information is correct, that takes the Sardinian troops under its command; we say not into its pay, for we abstain from wounding the national feeling of a country with which we regret to find ourselves at war.

Notwithstanding this necessity, the Emperor will still know how to protect the private interests of Sardinian subjects maintaining with Russia old commercial connections. The fault of their Government shall not be visited on them. Their property shall be respected; they shall be free to remain in the empire, in full security, under the protection of our laws, as long as they conform to them. But the Sardinian flag will henceforth cease to enjoy the prerogatives that exclusively belong to the mercantile marine of neutral Powers.

A term will be fixed for the departure of such Sardinian vessels as may at present be lying in the ports of the empire. The *exequatur* is immediately withdrawn from the Consul of Sardinia in Russia.

The Russian agents resident at Genoa and Nice in like manner receive orders to suspend the exercise of their functions; the peace between the two countries having been broken by the Court of Sardinia from the moment she acceded to the treaty of alliance concluded on the 10th April, 1854, between England and France.

The Emperor has deigned to charge me with the communication of these determinations to all friendly Powers.

NESSELRODE.

AMERICA.

By the arrival of the steam-ship *Union*, off Cowes, on Monday, on her way to Havre, we have news from New York to the 10th ult.

The House of Representatives has passed the Texas Debt Bill, with an amendment, reducing the indemnity to the creditors to 6,550,000 dollars, being the principal, accrued interest, and present market worth of the 5,000,000 Public Stock reserved for this object under the compromise measures of 1850. Mr. Houston, of the Ways and Means Committee, succeeded in getting a test vote to go into Committee of the whole House on his proposed amendment of the tariff—yeas 104, nays 97. But, on going into Committee, the House decided by another close vote to take up a different bill, which virtually negatived the previous proposition.

Mr. Breckinridge has stated in the Senate that he had declined the appointment of Minister to Spain.

The Government of Washington has remitted the order made by Judge Ingersoll to condemn to the United States the British steam-ship *Alps* for smuggling. The penalty to which Captain Nye, of the steam-ship *Pacific*, was rendered liable in consequence of his steward being convicted of smuggling watches, has also been remitted.

Proceedings have been commenced against the Spanish Consul in New York—damages laid at 10,000 dols., for an assault and battery on the young Cuban, Hernandez, in the late attempt to remove him from America to Cuba. Carnobeli, the agent who acted in the affair, has been arrested for the same offence, and held to bail in the sum of 2000 dols.

The Chicago and Mississippi Railroad was to be opened on the 9th ult. The Illinois Central Railroad would also, probably, be opened the same day.

The United States' mail steam-ship *North Star* arrived at New York on the 8th ult., with one week's later news from California, and specie value 1,239,209 dols. The Panama Railroad is at length completed. On the 28th of January a train passed over the Isthmus, from Aspinwall to Panama, for the first time. Its arrival caused a great excitement at Panama.

It was reported by the *North Star* that a part of Santa Anna's army, 2000 in number, had deserted and gone over to Alvarez. A portion of them, with some of the officers, reached Acapulco on the 23rd of January.

DISTURBANCES IN AUSTRALIA.

Accounts from Melbourne to the 2nd of December state that serious disturbances had taken place at Ballarat, and that things still wore a threatening aspect at the departure of these advices. The riots sprang out of an attempt to arrest a digger, for the non-payment of his licence. Rumours of disturbances had reached Melbourne as early as the 27th of November, and before any actual overt act; and it would appear that the Government had taken precautionary measures by moving down small parties of the 12th and 40th Regiments, under the command of Captains Atkinson and Wise. On the 30th November, however, the diggers still persisted in refusing to pay their licences, on Mr. Commissioner Rede attempting to collect them, supported by a body of foot and mounted police, and the small party of military before mentioned. Ultimately a collision took place, but without loss of life. Some of the diggers were made prisoners; and it was feared that an attempt would be made at a forcible rescue by their companions. The *Melbourne Argus* of the 2nd says:—

The Government is thoroughly aroused, and is concentrating the whole military and police force of the colony at Ballarat. All the available men of the 40th and 12th Regiments have left town for that locality. A body of 300 rank and file of the former regiment, with their band, were marched out yesterday afternoon, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Valliant and the whole of the officers of the regiment. They took with them four field-pieces, and two 6 and two 12-pounders. All the officers and men of the 12th Regiment, with the exception of Captain Vereker, and the necessary guard, have left for the same place. They number about 300. Twenty-four men-of-war's-men and about twenty marines from her Majesty's ship *Electra* have also been sent off. Fifty horse and about the same number of foot police were to be dispatched yesterday afternoon. A large number of baggage and ammunition wagons were sent with the military. We also hear that Sir Robert Nickele, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces, and Colonel McCarty, Adjutant-General, intended to start for Ballarat at three o'clock this morning. The amount of the force, military and police, to be assembled at these diggings will be little short of 1000 men.

INDIA AND CHINA.

The steamer *Calcutta* arrived at Trieste on Tuesday morning, at six o'clock, in 128 hours, from Alexandria. The India and China mails left Alexandria for Marseilles on the 21st February, with intelligence from Calcutta of Jan. 22; Bombay, Jan. 31; Shanghai, Jan. 1; Canton, Jan. 13; Hong-Kong, Jan. 15; Singapore, Jan. 22. The naval expedition against the pirates in the Persian Gulf has been successful. Lord Dalhousie's reply has been received with the highest satisfaction by Dost Mahomed.

In China the civil war rages as fiercely as ever. Trade at Canton is almost stopped.

MR. ROEBUCK'S COMMITTEE.—This committee, consisting of Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Drummond, Sir John Pakington, Colonel Lindsay, Mr. Layard, Mr. Ellice, Lord Seymour, Sir George Cornwall Lewis, General Peel, Mr. Bramston, and Mr. John Ball, met on Monday, at half-past three, for the first time, for the purpose of choosing a chairman, and considering what course they should adopt in prosecuting this important inquiry.

WEST RIDING REPRESENTATION.—We are informed that there is not the smallest authority for announcing that Mr. John Parker, the late member for Sheffield, would be proposed for the West Riding in case of a vacancy or an election, and that such a thing is altogether improbable.—*Leeds Mercury*.

IN THE TRENCHES.—I promised to give you some account of the intrenchments. In the first place we have to enter and leave under cover of darkness. As soon as it is dark we march silently down, and relieve the men that entered before daylight the same morning. If we were to proceed by daylight they would destroy us before we could get in. But, once we get in, we are tolerably safe, with great care. The Russians commence firing as soon as it is dark; they fire Minie ball, cannon of all sizes, rockets, shell, and all kinds of missiles that are in use; but principally shell. They pitch them in all directions; but, fortunately for us, we can see every shell leave their mortars, and the directions they are pitched. The fusee is burning, and we can see the process from starting until they alight. They have to pitch them very high in the air all at once last night, all of which either dropped short or overshot the mark. But lately they have begun to fire a volley from their cannon instantly after their shells, which is very dangerous, as we cannot see the black boys, and they fire them very accurately; and the only way is to keep our heads in the trench.

Last week we had two men killed by a shot striking against a rock and splintering it; but we are so used to them that we take very little notice of them, as they never cease during the night; and I have seen men asleep in the trenches when the very ground has shaken beneath them. We had four or five killed a few days ago who had laid themselves down behind a pile of muskets. They were asleep, and a cannon-shot struck the muskets and knocked these men's brains out. But those cases are all carelessness.—*Letter from the Camp, Feb. 8.*

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

DESPATCH FROM LORD RAGLAN.

War Department, Feb. 27, 1855.

Lord Pammure has this day received a despatch and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle by Field-Marshal the Lord Raglan, G.C.B.:—

My Lord Duke.—I mentioned to your Grace, in my despatch of the 10th inst., that there had been a return of bad weather, and that the country was again saturated with wet.

On Sunday it rained or snowed from morning till night, and the wind was very high; and though it was fine yesterday, still the ground was in a worse state than I had seen it for some time.

The enemy has made no movement.

Major-General Jones, Royal Engineers, arrived a few days ago, and is busily engaged in making himself acquainted with the position occupied by both armies.

Lieutenant-General Sir George Brown has also returned, and I have great satisfaction in adding, in excellent health. His wound is healed, and, with the exception of not having entirely regained the full use of his elbow, he no longer suffers any inconvenience from it. He will resume the command of his division without loss of time.

I enclose the return of the casualties to the 11th instant.

I have, &c., RAGLAN.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, &c.

NOMINAL RETURN OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND PRIVATES KILLED AND WOUNDED, FROM 9TH TO 11TH FEBRUARY, 1855, INCLUSIVE.

KILLED.

47th Foot: Sergeant Joseph Godfrey.

WOUNDED.

88th Foot: Private Dan. McMahon, severely.

53rd Foot: Lance Corporal Jos. Blee, slightly.

J. B. BUCKNALL ESTCOURT, Adjutant-General.

THE BALTIMORE FLEET.

As far as can be ascertained at present, the fleet about to be despatched to the Baltic will thus be composed:—

Commander-in-Chief—Rear-Admiral of the Blue M. Seymour.

Third in Command—Rear-Admiral of the Blue, R. L. Baynes, C.B.

Captain of the Fleet—The Hon. F. T. Pelham.

Duke of Wellington (flag), 131 guns, 700 horse-power.

Guns. H- pwr.	Guns. H- pwr.	Guns. H- pwr.

THE LATE MR. HUME.

In our last Number we gave a memoir of the late member for the Montrose burghs, and we have this week given a Portrait of him from a daguerreotype by Mayall. In the House of Commons last Monday evening Lord Palmerston paid a high tribute to the memory of the deceased politician. After moving that the Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown for a new writ for the election of a member to fill the vacancy, he went on to say :—

Sir, I cannot simply confine myself to the bare motion that I have just put into your hands (Cheers). I should not be doing justice to the feelings of the House if I were not to express the feelings of regret that are shared, I am sure, by all who hear me (Loud Cheers), and the feelings of respect that we entertain for the memory of the colleague—the member—whose loss we have now to replace. Sir, it has been said of an eminent man of former times that he “gave up to party what was meant for mankind.” Sir, the reverse of that may be said of our late colleague, Mr. Hume (Cheers), for the party to which he devoted the labours of his life was his country, and, beyond his country, the general interests of mankind at large (Cheers). Sir, many men have obtained an eminent position in this House by placing themselves at the head of a faithful band of friends whose object has been to acquire political power to enable them to govern the country. Mr. Hume was a remarkable instance of a man who gained an eminent position in this House and the country, who established himself a name which, I may say, was not only known throughout Europe, but whose reputation passed beyond those limits, by exertions that were wholly disinterested, as far as he himself was concerned, and totally separate from any attempt to acquire, by his own exertions or those of his friends, political power in the country (Cheers). He was a man of whom it may be said that he took the lead in almost every measure of improvement which has of late years been carried into practical application. He had industry that nothing could tire or overcome. His acquirements spread over the whole range of those matters which concern the interests of the country and the general interests of the community at large (Cheers). He had perseverance that was baffled by no obstacle; and it is due to him to say that, although during the whole course of his proceedings and of his attempts to carry out his own opinions he had frequently many opposed to him, and was frequently exposed to those rough conflicts which are the necessary consequences to any man wishing to enforce his opinions in this House; yet nothing that ever passed between him and those most opposed to him ever left one trace of resentment, one particle of bitterness on his mind (Cheers). And while I remember to have heard it said of one person who held a high position in this House that whatever acrimony might have been created by party conflicts never went with him beyond the doors of this House, I may say that no feelings excited by party conflict ever went with Mr. Hume to the doors of this House (Hear, hear). A man with greater industry, a man who devoted his whole life with greater consistency to the good and service of his country, has never sat within these walls (Cheers). I am persuaded that those who differed from him in opinion upon the matters which he felt it his duty to bring before this House, and to recommend for the adoption of Parliament must do him the justice to say that he acted from the purest motives of a sincere desire for the welfare of the country. Those who differ from him must do justice to the integrity of his character, and we must all say—those who agree with him, as well as those who differ from him—that the death of a man possessing his abilities, his industry, and his dis-



THE LATE MR. JOSEPH HUME, M.P.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.



ACCIDENT TO THE SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY, AT DAWLISH.

of the attempt to acquire political ascendancy (Cheers). He endeavoured to do what he thought his duty to the country. Where he succeeded he was proud of his achievements; where he failed he did not relax his efforts, and still continued his career of public usefulness (Hear, hear). Sir, I am sure we all look back to his loss with regret, and no man feels more sincerely than I do the regret with which every person must have proposed the motion which I now move (Cheers).

Sir J. Walmsley, having enjoyed the confidence and friendship of Mr. Hume, wished to add one sentence to the well-merited tribute just paid to his memory (Hear). Mr. Hume's public labours were only exceeded by his private worth. He never made an enemy or lost a friend; and he trusted that a grateful people would not let the opportunity pass without some fitting memorial worthy of himself and the country (Hear, hear).

Mr. Brotherton wished to be permitted to pay a humble tribute of respect to the memory of Mr. Hume. He had been for twenty-one years a witness of his labours, and he never saw a man less actuated by feelings of party than Mr. Hume, or who had more claims to the respect and veneration of the country. If ever there were an honest member of Parliament, Mr. Hume was one (Cheers).

MEN WANTED IN RUSSIA.—Letters from the Polish frontiers mention as a fact that the Customs and other authorities have received orders to let in all emigrants applying for admission into Poland, whether they left the kingdom from political or any other motives. What sort of reception awaits those who may be induced to return deponent saith not. At the same time orders have been given to the frontier custom-houses to give to every German surgeon who arrives and reports himself as willing to enter the Russian military service the sum of 20 silver roubles to defray his travelling expenses as far as Warsaw. The authorities at the frontier stations of Liebitsch and Sluzewo have, however, not yet had an opportunity of obeying these orders; and, after it has become known how German surgeons are treated in Russia, it is not likely that the custom-house people will be much inconvenienced and overrun by German army surgeons requiring the 20 roubles to carry them to Warsaw. If the order were reversed there can be no doubt that many would avail themselves of it.

DAMAGE TO THE SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY, NEAR DAWLISH.

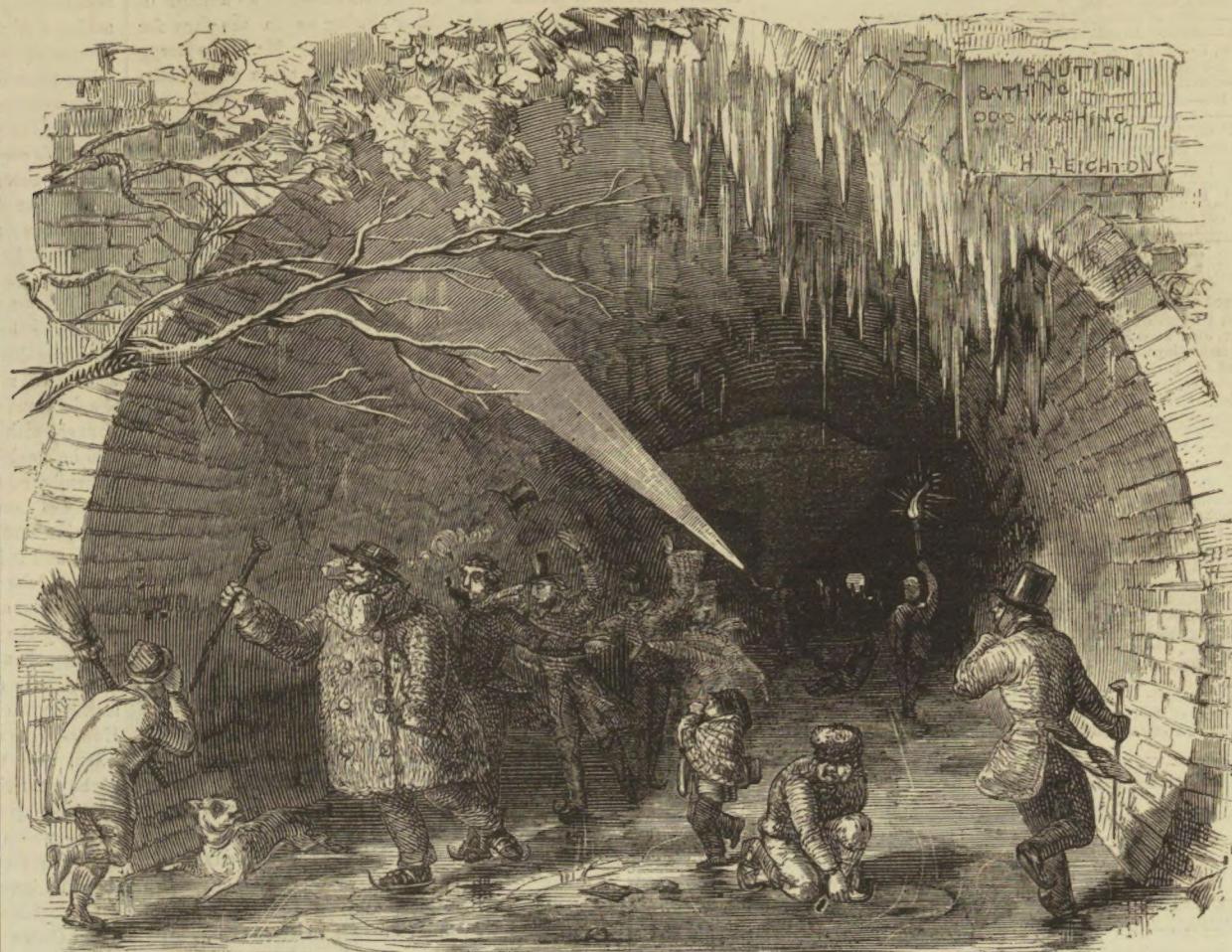
EARLY on Friday morning the 16th ult., considerable damage occurred to the line near Dawlish, owing to the violence of the sea, when more than thirty yards of the wall adjoining the line was destroyed, the waves tearing up also a considerable portion of the embankment under the romantic cliffs, forming a sort of chasm, and destroying the line. The train has been consequently impeded, and the passengers obliged to alight and carry their luggage some distance, crossing temporary platform, to the carriages waiting their arrival. The scene, although a melancholy one, has a picturesque appearance, especially at night time, as many workmen are employed, and work by fire-light, while the raging sea is threatening them with destruction. Amidst the waves, near the cliffs, is a very curious mass of rock called “the Parson,” which has withstood the storms for ages, though another mass, called “the Clerk,” has long since disappeared. The

cliffs at this part of the coast are highly picturesque, and the distant ones are visible for many miles; and, with the addition of vessels, the prospect is perhaps, not to be surpassed for pictorial effect. For the Sketch we are indebted to Mr. F. W. L. Stockdale.



TOMB OF THE EARL OF BEAUCHAMP, JUST ERECTED IN THE PARISH
CHURCH OF ST. MARYLEBONE, NEW ROAD.

THIS very interesting memorial has lately been placed in the parish church of St. Marylebone, to the memory of the late Earl of Beauchamp, by his widow, Catherine, Countess of Beauchamp. The tablet consists of a bas-relief, which has been executed in Italy, and is a fine work of art. The urn bears in Greek, "He is not dead, but sleepeth." Above are the arms of the Earl and Countess (his second wife), in their proper colours; the whole surmounted by a white marble cross. The following is the inscription:—



SKATING IN THE REGENT'S CANAL TUNNEL.

Sacred to the memory of JOHN REGINALD PINDAR, third Earl of Beauchamp, of Madresfield Court, Viscount Elmley and Baron of Powyke, county of Worcester, where he was beloved and respected for thirty years as a landlord and neighbour, as well as a consistent politician. He was endowed with rare common sense, and superior abilities for business. He attained great knowledge in agriculture, in the pursuits of which he took pleasure. He was remarkable for the constancy of his attachment to the friends of his youth, and he never forgot a kindness. He bequeathed £60,000 for the erection and endowment of almshouses at Newland, Worcestershire, for the benefit of the agricultural poor. The last act of his life was to rebuild, at his sole expense, the church at Madresfield. He died January 2nd, 1853, aged sixty-nine years, after a long illness, borne with exemplary resignation, placidity, and gentleness. His widow Catherine, Countess of Beauchamp (third daughter of the Baroness Bray), received his last sigh and mourned his loss. She erects this monument as a tribute of affection to his memory.—Jesus Mercy!

“I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet he shall live.”—St. John, c. ii., v. 25.

SKATING UNDERGROUND.

THIS Illustration is another remarkable scene consequent upon the intense frost. During the whole of last week, the canal from Regent's-park Basin to Paddington, presented a scene of much animation and bustle, from the number of skaters and sliders upon it. The Illustration is taken from the Regent's-park end of the tunnel, through which the canal runs under Aberdeen-place and Maida-hill (about a quarter of a mile long) which throughout each day was traversed by hundreds of skaters, who went through and through, in imitation of express trains, with appropriate noises and whistlings, as of engines letting off the steam, &c.; the ice being considered good there having been no snow upon it, and the bargemen being unable to draw the ice-boat through to break it at the com-

mencement of the frost. The icicles from the roof gave a very picturesque appearance to the scene. On Sunday the 18th ult., there was such a concourse of people at one time going through, it was considered dangerous; so that a number of policemen were very properly stationed at each end to stop them, as it was feared they might accumulate in the middle, and cause the ice to give way. Next day, the police were withdrawn, and "the trains" were allowed to run as usual.

THE THAMES FROZEN OVER AT RICHMOND.

AMONG the memorabilia of the recent frost was the freezing of the entire width of the river Thames at Richmond, which had not occurred for seventeen years. Many persons crossed the ice by two paths—one from opposite the villa of the Duke of Buccleuch, and the other just above the bridge, where the ice was much rougher; both paths were strewed with sand, for the safety of the passengers. Some of the Richmond skaters took advantage of this rare state of the river; but the greater number, including a few ladies, preferred the smoother ice of the large ponds in Richmond park.

ponds in Richmond-park.
Our Artist has sketched the frozen Thames as seen through one of the arches of Paine's Bridge, which forms a constituent feature in many beautiful views from surrounding points—



THE THAMES FROZEN OVER AT RICHMOND.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, March 4.—2nd Sunday in Lent.
 MONDAY, 5.—Battle of Barossa, 1811. Dr. Parr died, 1825.
 TUESDAY, 6.—Michael Angelo born, 1475.
 WEDNESDAY, 7.—St. Perpetua.
 THURSDAY, 8.—Raphael born, 1483. William III. died, 1702.
 FRIDAY, 9.—David Rizzio assassinated, 1566.
 SATURDAY, 10.—Sir Hugh Myddelton died, 1589.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MARCH 10, 1855.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
2 48	3 3	3 18	3 32	3 45	4 0	4 15

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

** We have received a sheet of rubbish from New York, called an *American cheap Newspaper*, purporting to give the personal history of the Press of London. To our own knowledge this newspaper is full of inaccuracies and grossly personal impertinence; and, with regard to what is said about the commencement of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, we give the flattest contradiction to the statement. If any alteration in the stamp on newspapers is to produce such journals in England as this American specimen, no calamity we have of late experienced equals the nuisance of the publication of sheets called cheap newspapers, vilely personal and malicious, such as we see in this publication from New York, which, for the credit of the Americans, is often not conducted by them, but by expatriated Irishmen, and the offscourings of the London press, who, for legal and other reasons, dare not show their faces in the metropolis. Still, we regret that the people of the United States often encourage such disgraceful journals.

CLERICUS, Liverpool, asks when was the first payment of Income-tax on incomes of £100 a year due?—Ans. The autumn quarter of 1853. 2. When was the amount raised from 5d. in the pound to 10d.—Ans. In March, 1854. 3. Is not the interest of money borrowed for the purpose of carrying on trade legally exempt from Income-tax?—Ans. No.

PHILIPPE DE.—The passage in question is from Shakespeare's "As You Like it." A Subscriber, Hackney, should apply to Messrs. Reeve, Natural History publishers, Henrietta-street, Covent-garden.

O. H. Rochdale.—The Earl of Derby's son, Lord Stanley, sits in Parliament for King's Lynn.

F. H. B. is thanked. We have not room for his letter.

VOLUNTEER.—A History of the Hon. Artillery Company, 4to, has been published. J. B. D. B., Lowestoft, had better send his letter, under cover, to the French Ambassador.

A SOLDIER'S DAUGHTER.—We regret that we have not room for the lines.

C. G. and P.—The lines are inadmissible. INCOME-TAX, Newport, is liable.

M. C. Guernsey.—Declined.

R. P., Balaklava, is thanked.

F. A. Donegal.—Address: Kensington. W. B., Cork.—Received.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1855.

THERE is no doubt a peace party in Russia—if that can be called a party which has no organisation, or means of intercommunion. We may suppose that the Russian lovers of peace, whom the Czar will not allow to speak, are composed not only of the widows and orphans of those who have fallen under the fire of the British and French legions, or who have miserably perished in the snows of the Crimea, but of the lordly owners of the serfs who supply the human nutriment for the grim and bloody Moloch of war, and who, in the absence of a great and thriving middle class, pay the whole cost of the present struggle. No doubt they are lovers of peace; and would, if they had an opportunity, make their wishes heard in the Imperial presence. But, whatever be their strength or weakness, no voice from them reaches outer Europe. In like manner there is doubtless a party in France which hates war for its derangement of commerce and industry, and for the countless national as well as private evils which it produces; but Europe hears little of its sentiments, for France is dumb, except for approval. The Turks, too, may have a peace party amongst them, which would rather yield to the Czar than be at the trouble of fighting against him; though we doubt whether there is one such man in the Turkish dominions who is not a Greek by birth and religion. It thus happens that a portion of the English are the only peace-mongers who can manage to make their opinions heard in the world. But we must not overrate their importance on that account. Strictly speaking, the British Government, and the large bulk of the sound-hearted British people, are friends of peace—peace at all price—peace even at the heavy price of war. It is for peace that we are fighting;—peace so solid, and so well secured by victory, that not even Nicholas and his hordes shall dare, or be able, to break it.

But we have another peace party—which is in reality the party of war—the party of submission to wrong, because it is inconvenient and troublesome to enforce the right; the party which would yield to the strong ruffian's demands, rather than put on an attitude of manliness, and defy him; the party which would invite war by the very means which it foolishly employs to prevent it; the party of silly sheep that bleat with virtuous unconcern when the wolf has seized the youngling of the flock, and is devouring it before their eyes. As long as this party avoids argument and sticks to its dogma, that war is, under all circumstances, a crime, and that it is just as wicked to resist evil as to commit it, the only feeling that honest and sensible men can entertain towards its members is one of pity that amiable sentiment and misjudging philanthropy should lead estimable citizens so far astray. But it appears that we have an offshoot from this party—not composed of members of the Society of Friends alone—who make Manchester their head-quarters, and are determined to keep up an agitation in favour of immediate peace. We gather from their speeches that any kind of peace would suit them—even a dishonourable one. So intensely do they hate—or pretend to hate—war, that they would barter everything for peace, except their money. When they endeavour to act upon public opinion by mis-statements of fact, they cease to be harmless enthusiasts, like the Sturges and the Brights, and become mischievous agitators who but ill conceal the cunning of the serpent under the guise of the meekness of the dove. At a meeting of ex-members of the Anti-Corn-Law League, held at Newall's-buildings, on Tuesday evening last, and under the presidency of Mr. George Wilson, the well-known ex-chairman of that defunct Association, it was stated in effect, if not in express terms, that this country cannot afford to go to war in support of any principle or of any cause whatever. If the various gentlemen who urged these views spoke the truth, there would speedily be an end of the British empire, and with it of that commercial prosperity which they one and all seem to consider the only earthly object for which states or individuals ought to strive. Mr. George Wilson said that if "we looked around us we should see provisions at a high price—the bankrupt list increased—shopkeepers complaining of the absence of customers—very many more empty houses than could be found a few years ago—a reduction of wages and men working short time—men discharged and be-

coming competitors for work with those still employed, by which means the value of labour was brought down—and an amount of general suffering almost unparalleled staring us in the face for many years to come, if the war should continue." Mr. Hyde Gregg was equally lugubrious. The interruption of our trade with Russia—though Moldavia and Wallachia are far better customers for our manufactures, and consume twice or thrice as much of them—was held by this gentleman to be absolutely fatal to our national existence. "In a commercial country like England," said this gentleman, "the wheat we shut out raised the price at home; the flax and hemp not arriving, the mills of Belfast, Dundee, and Leeds were stopped: the people were left without food, and perhaps there were tumults in consequence. As to hemp, with our Royal and commercial marine, we could not do without it. In such countries as Russia or Spain there might be civil war or invasion, and yet all ordinary occupations might proceed—everybody might be fed and clothed. But our working classes were improvident; they were distressed if they did not receive their wages at the end of a week—they began to be tumultuous at the end of a fortnight—and in less than a month, with civil war or foreign invasion, everything would be in a state of confusion, and all would be going to ruin." Mr. Thomasson, of Bolton, said, "It was, no doubt, an excellent thing to adjust the balance of power in Europe, and to civilise Turkey; but were we prepared to do it at the cost of the civilisation of our countrymen? That was the practical question before us. Upon full consideration, he thought it premature to say more of the condition of the population in his own district (Bolton) than that he regarded the immediate future with the utmost alarm and almost with dismay." All the speeches were to the same tune; and Mr. Wilson, without calling for a vote, wound up the proceedings by the expression of his belief that, if Lord John Russell did not succeed in making peace at Vienna, "fearful consequences would result to this country." In our opinion, consequences infinitely more fearful would result if the condition of this great country was really such as Mr. Wilson and his friends represent it to be. Let them take heart of grace. War is a bad thing, as every one knew before they arose to teach it; and so are fevers, and many other things which humanity must endure, and profit by. There is wisdom out of Manchester as well as in it; and there are at least one or two, if not a dozen, things better than money; and among them, justice, and honour, and self-respect. But the ex-chairman and ex-members of the League, though once in advance of their countrymen on the question of Free-trade, are on other subjects lamentably in arrear with the world's intelligence. They lag behind the common sense of the people; and no more represent the truth of contemporary history, or the sentiments of the masses, than the Mormons of Manchester and Liverpool represent the religious feeling and conviction of the British nation. Their policy, if adopted—which we trust it never will be—would sacrifice honour for peace, and everything for money. As a necessary consequence it would secure neither peace nor money. We should lose our place in the world; become a prey to the ambition of our neighbours, and owe our existence to other States, as Turkey owes hers to us. And then, with more rapidity than would suit the comfort of Manchester and Manchester men, down would crumble that fine fabric of commercial prosperity which these gentlemen so much love, and for the sake of which they would make such large but unavailing sacrifice of national honour.

PARLIAMENT grudges no money for the war. It votes with alacrity all that is asked. But the debates on the Estimates form an entirely distinct feature in Parliamentary discussion. Debates, indeed, they are hardly entitled, or let us say hardly deserve, to be called, for, instead of the regular parallels and batteries of set oratory, they assume the more practical form of independent conversational firing. Much more of good sense and real fact is brought up in the course of three or four hours of a Committee on the Estimates than in a week of adjourned debating on a second reading. The public knows comparatively little of these discussions, for it is impossible to report them fully, or at least the conductors of the London press have not yet deemed it needful to adopt the custom of their provincial contemporaries, who jot down every syllable of twaddle or flippancy uttered by town councillors and such-like celebrities, until, on taking up a country journal, one's marvel is divided between the absurdity of the reporter and of the reported. Hitherto the Parliamentary gallery has abstained from more than a condensed summary of Committee work, though, no doubt, a large portion of the speakers would be better pleased were every "aside" noted; every explanation, mistake, and retraction recorded, every "Yes, I did," and "No, you didn't," "O, I dare say," and "Ah, it's all very well," registered after the fashion of the provinces.

In Committee few "speeches" are made. Anybody may speak as often as he pleases, and therefore everybody usually speaks to the matter in hand at the time, without deeming it necessary to take large theoretical or party views. Now and then, however, a prepared address is introduced, but it is usually of a practical character, and is heard with advantage—as where the history of a certain abuse, connected with a particular item in the Estimates, precedes a motion that such item be passed over, or where a particular reform is urged in regard to the employment of the special sum at which the Committee has arrived. On these occasions the speech is more elaborated, and is fully reported; at other times the stenographer skilfully packs a speaker's chief point into three or four lines, and omits all his apologies for speaking, his *faciae*, and the conversational portion of his observations. Many members rise in Committee whose names seldom or never occur in the reports of the regular debate—generally quiet, sensible men, who "happen to know" something about the one item, either personally, or through their constituents; who watch, sometimes a little nervously, until the Chairman of Committees begins to put it, and then, with a hurried "Mr. Bouverie, Sir," make their complaint. A Minister usually attends respectfully to a man of this kind, and listens with a manner in strong contrast to that with which he waits until any huck-caviller, any professional grumbler, has done, in order to rise and give the stereotyped taunt and answer.

During the discussion of Army Estimates there are usually three or four exchanges of something like personalities. There are a

few civilians in the House who have a particular dislike for the fashionable part of the Army, and seldom lose an opportunity of taking a fling at the Guards. The "service" is, however, quite adequately represented, and the missile has not long been flung when some honourable and gallant member rises to reply, and he is sometimes a chivalrous "heavy," sometimes a highly-ornamental Guardsman, sometimes a nobleman who "has served," for *esprit de corps* calls up any volunteer who may be within hearing. In such case, according to the nature of the man, you either hear the civilian indignantly assailed or loftily rebuked, occasionally the intimation that he is "utt'ly ignorant of what he is talkin' 'bout," conveyed in a rich imitation of the dialogue supplied by Mr. Leech to his "swells," and with that contempt of expletives which is taught by first-rate claret.

Two or three topics of importance were brought up during the Estimate discussions in the earlier part of the week. Mr. Lindsay, a shrewd man of business, contrasted, in a practical way, the different working of our military administration and that of France, with which he had, in some measure, acquainted himself, and he dwelt upon the importance of simple system. It may be remembered that, some short time ago, it was announced in the House of Lords that three officers had been sent over to Paris to examine into the system which has worked so much better than ours; and it is to be hoped that Parliament will insist upon some report of the result being given to the public: mere communications to the authorities will not be satisfactory. Then Mr. Layard (who, by the way, has been addressing his constituents, and explaining that he is out of office because he refused to take any office in which he did not believe his specialities would be useful) commented upon the course adopted in the Crimea in regard to forage. Horses were starving, and the officials sent to England for forage, when, said the member for Nineveh (speaking from knowledge of the countries), any quantity could have been obtained at three days' sailing distance. The advantage of the Committee discussions—which enable an informed man to pitch a single hard, damaging fact into the midst of a discussion in routine, and thus to show the ignorance of officialism—is self-evident.

Colonel Knox also addressed himself to the question of the proposed Order of Merit for the private soldier. Although it was clear that the gallant Colonel spoke the sentiments of that section of the Army, which has a refined horror of any large infusion of officers who have risen from the ranks; and, although no doubt, this class regard the order of merit as rather an ingenious device for parrying the popular demand upon the subject, he talked rationally enough as to the mockery of making the distinction a mere honour. Our soldiers are not so well paid and cared for that we can afford to tie a piece of tinselled ribbon upon their coat, in full of all demands upon our gratitude for extraordinary exertions. If the position of a soldier were what it should be, the mere honour might suffice, but under existing arrangements the prize ought to be something tangible. Double pay and double pension was Colonel Knox's not unreasonable suggestion as accompaniments of the Order of Merit; and, if it be desired that the soldier shall habitually aspire to the decoration, the poor fellow ought to know that it is weighted, and that in his old age he shall have something else to keep him warm than the faint reflex of the fires of glory which is seen in a red ribbon.

It was also satisfactory to hear, from all sides of the Committee, the most unsparing denunciations of routine. The Conservatives vied with the Liberals in denouncing it; and, if this newly-awakened and most laudable hatred can be kept alive, there is some hope that our next war may be conducted upon a system affording reasonable hope of vigorous action.

THE NEW MINISTRY.

The following is the composition of the new Ministry, so far as it had been arranged up to the latest accounts:—

Lord Palmerston	..	First Lord of the Treasury.
Lord Cranworth	..	Lord Chancellor.
Lord Clarendon	..	Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
Lord Panmure	..	Secretary for the War Department.
Sir G. Grey	..	Secretary for the Home Department.
Lord John Russell	..	Secretary for the Colonies.
Sir G. C. Lewis	..	Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Sir C. Wood	..	First Lord of the Admiralty.
Sir W. Molesworth	..	Chief Commissioner of Woods and Works.
Lord Granville	..	President of the Council.
Lord Canning	..	Postmaster-General.
Duke of Argyl	..	Lord Privy Seal.
Lord Carlisle	..	Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.
Mr. Horsman	..	Chief Secretary for Ireland.
Lord Duncan	..	Lord of the Treasury, in the room of Lord Elcho.
Lord Stanley of Alderley	..	President of the Board of Trade.
Mr. Vernon Smith	..	President of the Board of Control.
Mr. Danby Seymour	..	Secretary to the Board of Control.

Mr. Villiers, who was offered the Vice-Presidency of the Board of Trade, declines that office, and retains his present post of Judge-Advocate-General. Mr. W. Cowper succeeds Mr. Fitzroy as Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department; and Sir Robert Peel will, it is said, go to the Colonial-office as Under-Secretary. Mr. Monckton Milnes has declined the Secretaryship of the Treasury—rendered vacant by the resignation of Lord Alfred Hervey. In filling the Secretaryship of the Ordnance, Lord Palmerston was anxious to avail himself of the business experience of Mr. Laing, but the extent of that gentleman's undertakings obliged him to decline the office. The Secretaryship of the Ordnance, as well as the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade, a Lordship of the Treasury, and a Lordship of the Admiralty, remain vacant.

The Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. Brewster, has tendered his resignation, and it has been accepted. The Solicitor-General, Mr. Keogh, will succeed Mr. Brewster as Attorney-General. Mr. John David Fitzgerald, Q.C., has been appointed Solicitor-General, in succession to Mr. Keogh.

ADDRESS OF LORD JOHN RUSSELL.—Lord John Russell has issued the following address to the electors of London:—

Paris, Friday.
 Gentlemen,—Her Majesty having been pleased to confide to me a mission of the highest importance, involving the interests of Europe, and affording hope of an honourable termination of the present war, I felt it my duty to withdraw for a time from my service to you in Parliament. Whilst in this capital, intelligence has reached me of the resignation of three of the principal Ministers of the Crown, and Lord Palmerston has asked for my assistance in carrying on the Government. In the difficult circumstances in which the country is placed, I have not thought myself justified in withholding from the Queen any aid which it might be in my power to afford. I have, therefore, accepted office; and, on my return from Vienna, shall be prepared to assume its duties and responsibilities. In these circumstances I humbly place myself in your hands as a candidate for the renewal of your confidence.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) J. RUSSELL.

Lord John Russell left Paris on Sunday morning for Berlin, where he would meet with the latest documents of the Foreign-office relating to the subject of his mission, and where he would probably make a short stay en route for Vienna.

THE COURT.

On Saturday the Prince Consort and the two young Princes skated on the ice within Buckingham Palace gardens, while the Queen and the Royal Princesses promenaded on the banks of the lake. Afterwards her Majesty received a visit from the Duke and Duchess de Nemours. In the evening the Queen had a dinner party; the company at which included their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Mary, and the Duke of Cambridge, the French Ambassador and the Countess Walewska, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl and Countess of Derby, the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount and Viscountess Mahon, the Bishop of London and Mrs. Blomfield, and Vice-Admiral Deans Dundas.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince Albert, with the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, Prince Alfred, and the Princess Alice, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Buckingham Palace.

On Monday the Queen and Prince Albert, attended by Lord Alfred Paget and Captain the Hon. Dudley De Ros, visited her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, at her residence, Gloucester-house. Her Majesty had a dinner-party. During the evening the "Allied Army March," composed by Miss A. M. Cooper for the benefit of the Patriotic Fund, was performed by the band of the Coldstream Guards.

On Tuesday the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the Duke of Cambridge, and attended by the Viscountess Canning, the Hon. Mary Seymour, and Capt. the Hon. D. De Ros, inspected the Model of Sebastopol, and also the Great Globe, in Leicester-square. In the evening her Majesty honoured the Haymarket Theatre with her presence.

On Wednesday, after the Court, the Queen gave a dinner party, the company at which included the Duke of Argyll, the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, the Turkish Minister and Madame Musurus, the Prussian Minister and Countess Bernstorff, Lord and Lady Seymour, Lord and Lady Ernest Bruce, the Right Hon. Sir George Grey, the Right Hon. Sir John and Lady Young, Rear-Admiral Chads, and Major-General Cator.

Earl Somers and Colonel the Hon. A. N. Hood have relieved Lord De Tabley and Mr. F. Cavendish as the Lord and Groom in Waiting to her Majesty. Viscountess Canning has succeeded the Countess of Desart as the Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

Her Majesty will hold Levees at St. James's Palace on the following days, at two o'clock:—Wednesday, the 7th of March next; Wednesday, the 14th of March next.

The Countess Walewska held an assembly on Tuesday evening, at the residence of the French Embassy, Albert-gate House. His Serene Highness the Prince of Nassau honoured the réunion with his presence as did also General de la Marmora, Commander-in-Chief of the Sardinian Contingent.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, MARCH 1.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer.		Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Melted Snow in Inches.
		Highest Reading.	Lowest Reading.					
Feb. 23	29.869	38.3	23.6	29.7	— 9.8	96	CALM	0.00
" 24	29.792	41.5	27.4	33.5	— 6.1	87	S.W.	0.00
" 25	29.321	49.5	36.0	42.5	+ 3.8	96	W.	0.14
" 26	29.460	40.2	34.8	37.8	— 2.0	95	E.	0.08
" 27	29.796	39.0	32.0	35.0	— 4.9	98	S.E.	0.00
" 28	29.735	48.3	33.5	40.3	+ 0.4	98	S.W.	0.05
Mar. 1	29.540	54.0	35.1	42.2	+ 2.2	93	W.	0.14

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average, and the sign + above the average.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 29.87 inches at the beginning of the week to 29.32 inches by the 25th; increased to 29.89 inches by the 27th; and decreased to 29.53 inches by the end of the week. The mean for the week was 29.648 inches.

The mean daily temperature has varied from 10° below to 4° above their average values. They were below the averages on every day from Jan. 14 to Feb. 24, varying from 0.3° to 18.5° in defect; the mean defect for the whole period being 9.6° daily.

The mean temperature of the week was 37.4°, being 2.3° below the average of the corresponding week during thirty-eight years.

The range of temperature during the week was 30.4°.

The Weather.—On the first day of this week snow fell till 11 a.m.; there were many snow crystals, and for a short time the temperature marked 32°. On Saturday the morning was gloomy and dull till 11 a.m.; the sun then shone brightly, and a rapid thaw set in; and on Sunday the temperature was in excess above the average, being the first day since January 13. On Tuesday the temperature again fell to 32, and snow in the form of crystals fell. After this day the thaw continued uninterruptedly till the end of the week.

For the month of February the mean reading of the barometer at the level of the sea was 29.779 inches. The highest temperature during the month was 49.5° on the 25th, and the lowest was 7° on the 11th; the range of temperature during the month was therefore 42.5°. The mean of all the highest temperatures by day was 35.6°, and of all the lowest by night was 23.5°, the mean daily range of temperature during the month was therefore 12.1°. The mean temperature of the air during the month was 29.3°, being 9.5° below the average of the corresponding month during thirty-eight years, and the coldest at present recorded, the register extending back to the year 1814; the nearest approach was in the corresponding month of 1814, when the mean temperature was 28.4°. The mean temperature of the dew point was 25.4°. The mean degree of humidity was 87 (complete saturation being represented by 100), and the fall of rain during the month was one inch nearly.

Lewisham, March 2, 1853.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—Within the week ending February 24, the births of 916 boys, and of 874 girls, were registered in the metropolitan districts—in all, 1790 children. Within the same interval of time the deaths of 791 males, and of 813 females, were registered—in all, 1604 persons; exceeding the calculated number for the week by 337. The late rigorous weather showed only slight signs of mitigation till Saturday last, when a rapid thaw set in, and the season of extreme cold passed over. Its effects are shown in the preceding six weeks in the number of deaths reaching 9408, a number exceeding the average by 1968, which for the most part were the indirect results of the low temperature. The deaths weekly were nearly 100 in excess above the average for every degree the weekly temperature was below 32°.

MANSION HOUSE.—This evening (Saturday) the Lord Mayor will entertain at dinner the Garrick Club, of which his Lordship is a member.

ALTERATION OF THE CITY POLICE DUTY.—On Monday morning an alteration took place with regard to the duty of the London police. In future the men will be placed on day duty for four hours, be relieved for four hours, and then commence their second four hours; thus affording them more relief than by the old system, that of having every other day a long duty of nine hours. The night officers will be placed on duty for eight and not nine hours, as heretofore, much to the comfort of those placed on the "bridge" or "market" duty.

BREAKING UP OF THE FROST.—The River Thames, which, up to last Saturday, was blocked up by immense fields of floating ice, is now completely free. From the surveys that have already been made, £200,000, at the least, will be required to repair the damage done to sailing craft, small wherries, and the various steam-boat piers—especially Blackfriars-bridge pier had to be held together with heavy iron chains. Westminster-pier has had most of the ponderous timber piles snapped asunder by the accumulated masses of ice floating against them. Such was the force of the ice running against the timbers that piles of wood as thick as a man's body were broken in twain as easily as any one could separate a mere match.

THE ROYAL MEDICAL COLLEGE.—The third annual festival of the "Medical Benevolent College" (henceforward to be styled, in accordance with the gracious permission of her Majesty, the "Royal Medical College") was celebrated, on Wednesday evening, at the London Tavern. The Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle presided. The noble Earl was supported by Viscount Ebrington, M.P., the Rev. Dr. Croly, Rev. Sir J. Hayes, Mr. J. Lloyd Davies, M.P., Major Palmer, Sir G. Staunton, Mr. J. Phillips, M.P., Dr. Wilson, Dr. Babington, &c. After the usual loyal toasts, the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Royal Medical College," was proposed by the noble Chairman in a most eloquent and feeling speech, in which his Lordship ably advocated the claims of the ill-reputed profession of medicine to public support and sympathy, and forcibly dwelt on the inadequate remuneration of medical officers under the Poor-law Act. The Treasurer and Founder, Mr. Propert, then rose and gave a very favourable account of the Institution, which is to be opened in the course of the ensuing summer for the reception of 100 pupils, the sons of medical men, and a certain number of decayed medical men or their widows and orphans. The list of subscriptions announced by Mr. Propert in the course of the evening amounted to upwards of £200. The Rev. Dr. Croly afterwards delivered an eloquent speech in favour of the medical profession, in which he urged the expediency of blending medical with theological education, especially for missionaries. The health of the noble Chairman was proposed by Lord Ebrington, under the style and title of "The new Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland." This toast was enthusiastically received; and the noble Earl, in returning thanks, acknowledged the high honour of the office. After this toast, the festivities of the evening were prolonged to a late hour. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Mr. Benson, and Mr. Harker was a most efficient toastingmaster.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

JOHN, VISCOUNT PONSONBY, G.C.B.

THIS distinguished diplomatist died at Brighton on the 21st ult., aged eighty-four. His Lordship—a scion of the noble house of Bessborough—was son and heir of William Brabazon, first Baron Ponsonby, of Imokilly, and grandson of the Right Hon. John Ponsonby, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, who was second son of the first Earl of Bessborough. He succeeded his father 5th November, 1806, and obtained the Viscountcy, by creation, in 1839.

In 1826 Lord Ponsonby was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister to Rio Janeiro. In 1830 he proceeded on a special mission to Belgium. In 1832 he became Envoy at Naples; and at the close of the same year was constituted Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, in which important station he continued until October, 1841. From 1846 to 1851 his Lordship was Ambassador to the Court of Austria. For his eminent services he was given the Grand Cross of the Bath in 1834; and in 1839 raised to the degree of Viscount.

In 1851 he married, 13th January, 1803, Lady Frances Villiers, daughter of George Bussey, fourth Earl of Jersey, but had no issue. His Viscountcy becomes, consequently, extinct; but the Barony of Ponsonby devolves on his nephew, William, the posthumous son of the late gallant Sir William Ponsonby, who fell at Waterloo.

LORD KENYON.

GEORGE KENYON, LL.D., F.S.A., Lord Kenyon, Baron of Gredington, in the county of Flint, and a Baronet, was the second son of the well-known lawyer, Sir Lloyd Kenyon, who was successively Attorney-General, Master of the Rolls, and Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and who was elevated to the Peerage the 9th June, 1788. George Kenyon was born the 22nd July, 1775; and (his elder brother having died unmarried *vitæ patris*) succeeded his father as second Baron on the 4th April, 1802. He married, on the 1st Feb., 1803, Margaret Emma, only daughter of Sir Thomas Hammer, Bart., by whom (who died the 24th Feb., 1815) he has had issue two sons and three daughters. Of the daughters, Margaret, wife of the Hon. Captain Thomas Best, alone survives her father. Lord Kenyon died at his seat, Gredington-hall, Flintshire, on the 25th ult. He is succeeded in his honours by his elder son, Lloyd, now the third Baron.

SIR PHILIP BROKE, BART.

SIR PHILIP BROKE, second Baronet, of Broke-hall, Suffolk, was the eldest son of one of our naval heroes, Rear-Admiral Sir Philip Bowes Vere Broke, who, as Captain of her Majesty's ship *Shannon*, defeated the United States frigate of superior force, the *Chesapeake*, and who in reward was created a Baronet, the 2nd November, 1813. His eldest son, the subject of this notice, was born the 15th June, 1804, and succeeded, as second Baronet, on the demise of his gallant father, the 3rd January, 1841. He was himself a Captain in the Royal Navy. Having never married, he is succeeded by his next brother, now Sir George Nathaniel Broke, also a Captain R.N., who is married to Albinia Maria, second daughter of Thomas Evans, Esq., of Lymminster. Sir Philip Broke died on the 24th ult., at his seat, Broke-hall, near Ipswich. The family of Broke is one of the most ancient in the realm.

J. DENNISTOUN, ESQ.

THIS accomplished gentleman died on the 13th ult. James Dennistoun, Esq., of Dennistoun and Colgrain, N.B., a magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant, and a member of the Faculty of Advocates, was born in 1803; he was descended from the knightly, noble, and kingly house of Danzielstoun, in Renfrewshire.

Mr. Dennistoun was educated for the legal profession, and passed advocate in 1824; but his favourite bent was not the law, but the antiquities of his country. As an antiquarian writer he became early distinguished by his learned and interesting contributions to the Bannatyne and Maitland Clubs. A subsequent residence in Italy gave rise to his able papers on the Stuarts, published in the *Quarterly Review* of December, 1846, and also to his more considerable work, the "Memoirs of the Dukes of Urbino," published in three volumes, in 1852. The latter production met with merited success as an able exposition of a somewhat perplexed and obscure period of the annals of Italy. Mr. Dennistoun's last book, which he lived to complete, if not to publish, were two volumes of the "Memoirs of Sir Robert Strange," engraver, illustrating his artistic life; and the "Memoirs of Strange's brother-in-law, Andrew Lumisden," private secretary to the Stuart Princes. Mr. Dennistoun's wife (whom he married in 1835), Isabella Katharina, eldest daughter of the Hon. James Wolfe Murray, Lord Cringeltie, an eminent Scottish Judge, was granddaughter of this famous Jacobite engraver, Sir Robert Strange, the subject of her husband's biographical labours.

MR. DOD.

CHARLES R. DOD, Esq., a gentleman of high and merited reputation in journalism and literature, died on the 21st ult., at his residence at Brixton. Mr. Dod was the only son of the Rev. Roger Dod, who was Vicar of Drumease, in the county of Leitrim, and he represented a junior branch of the family of Dod, of Clovery, the head of which is the present John Whitehall Dod, Esq., M.P. for North Shropshire. Inheriting a small patrimony, of which actual possession was only acquired after a Chancery suit, Mr. Dod turned his early attention to the bar as a profession, and with that view entered at the King's-inns, Dublin. He, however, soon relinquished his legal studies, and devoted to literature an undivided attention. After having been part proprietor and editor of a provincial journal, he eventually settled in London, where for thirty-seven years his pen has been unceasingly employed; for twenty-three of those years he has been engaged on the *Times*. Mr. Dod was manager or superintendent of the corps of gentlemen who report the debates for that paper. Mr. Dod also contributed to the *Times* for many years those well-known and interesting memoirs of distinguished persons as their deaths occurred. Mr. Dod is further creditably known to the public as the author of those useful and meritorious publications, the "Parliamentary Companion," and the "Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage." Latterly his increasing duties in connection with the *Times* prevented his actual execution of any portion of those books. They have for more than twelve years been in the hands of his son, under whose able editorship they of course remain. Mr. Dod dies deeply and deservedly lamented. "He passed," observes the *Times*, "a life crowded with domestic virtues, and leaves a name of unsullied integrity."

WILLS AND PERSONALITY.—Lieut.-Col. the Hon. John Brown, personality, £60,000. Major-General H. R. Milner, £18,000. Admiral David Price, £10,000. The Rev. F. J. Faithful, B.C.L., Prebendary of Lincoln and Rector of Bishops Hatfield, £25,000. Joseph Cave, Esq., merchant, Portsmouth, £20,000. Joseph Oliver, ironmonger, Shadwell, £160,000. James Cockle, the surgeon, £30,000.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS.—Mr. Henry Holland, of Montague-square, who died worth £35,000, has bequeathed £500 to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington. Miss Martha Ann Weale, of Milton-street, Dorset-square, has left to the London Missionary Society £200; British and Foreign Bible Society, £200; Home Missions, £100; and legacies to other charities.

THE LATE ESCAPE FROM NEWGATE.—John Brown, one of the three convicts who escaped from Newgate under extraordinary circumstances a few days ago, was captured on Wednesday morning, in Petticoat-lane, and taken back to Newgate. The other two remain at large.

THE COURT.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

(By International Telegraph via the Hague.)

VIENNA, Friday, March 2.

Intelligence has been received from Constantinople up to the 22nd of February.

The last sortie of the Russians had been victoriously repulsed.

The Russians have demolished the Malakoff tower.

Information had been received by General Bosquet of an intended attack on Balaclava. Preparations had been accordingly made to receive the enemy.

Baron Koller had been honoured with an audience by the Sultan. The raising of the blockade of the Danube has been officially notified.

The exportation of corn from the Turkish provinces will, it is expected, be prohibited.

Lord John Russell had an audience yesterday with the King of Prussia. M. de Manteuffel was present.

The following telegraphic despatch has been received by way of Trieste:—

ATHENS, Feb. 24.

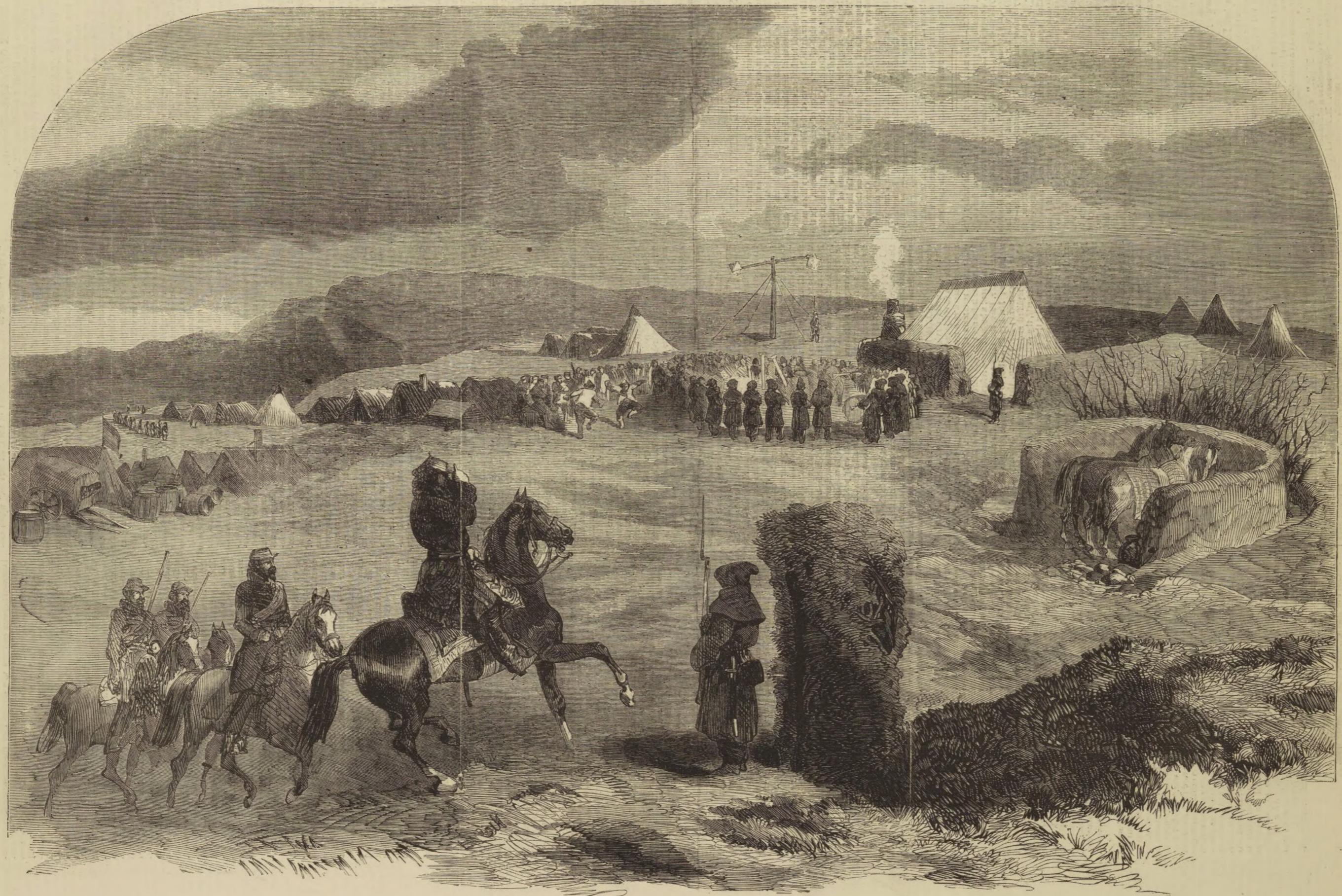
M. de Bruck has left, after having had an audience of the King.

Baron Mercier, the new Ambassador from France, has been presented to his Majesty.

The French Artillery has left the Piræus, and embarked for the Crimea. A battalion of Marine Infantry is all we have left here.



HUTS AND TENTS OF THE RIFLES AND ROYAL MARINES, ON THE HEIGHTS OF BALACLAVA.—(SEE PAGE 212.)



THE BAND PLAYING IN THE FRENCH CAMP.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.
(Continued from page 211.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Lunacy Regulation Act (1853) Amendment Bill, the Consolidated Fund (£3,300,000) Bill, the Consolidated Fund (£20,000,000) Bill, and the Common Law Procedure Act Amendment (Ireland) Bill, were severally read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

THE NEW MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Lord PALMERSTON moved for the issue of new writs for the respective constituencies lately represented by Mr. Horsman, Mr. Keogh, and Mr. J. D. Fitzgerald—the first having accepted the office of Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; the second having been appointed Attorney-General for Ireland; and the third having accepted the office of Solicitor-General for Ireland.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

Mr. ROEBUCK moved that the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state of the army before Sebastopol have leave to make reports to the House.—Agreed to.

Mr. Roebuck then having laid the report upon the table, the SPEAKER read from it the following resolution—viz., “Resolved, that, in the opinion of this Committee, the objects for which they have been appointed will be best attained, danger and injustice to individuals best prevented, and the public interest best protected if the Committee be a Committee of Secrecy.”

Mr. F. PEEL, in reply to Mr. Otway, said that an agreement had been entered into between her Majesty's Government and the Sublime Porte by which the English Government would provide food and forage for the Turkish cavalry in the Crimea.

ARMY PROMOTION.

Lord GODERICH then rose to move that an Address be presented to her Majesty, praying her Majesty to take into consideration the present unjust system of Army promotion. The noble Lord said that the system of buying and selling commissions was, in his opinion, inconsistent with those sound principles of administration which ought to guide the Government of this country, and which therefore called for the interposition of the House of Commons. He contended that merit should be the test of promotion; but, instead of such being the test, promotion in the Army became a matter of money, and was confined, he would not say to the aristocratic, but to the wealthy classes of the community. In illustration of the cruelty and injustice of such a system, he referred to the case of Sergeant Sullivan, who had so distinguished himself in the Crimea, yet who was, notwithstanding, sacrificed to a puerile sense of etiquette, and who had had the mortification of seeing twelve gentlemen placed over him in his own regiment without purchase. He did not propose by his motion that the Army should be officered exclusively, or even mainly, by men raised from the ranks; but he strongly impressed upon the House the necessity of altering the present disproportion between those who were promoted for merit and those who obtained commissions by influence or by purchase.

Mr. F. PEEL insisted that the present system, however defective in theory, had not been practically injurious to the British Army, for in no army in the world were the officers so remarkable for a high sense of honour, integrity, and courage. He denied that the motion was correct in alleging that the present system was unjust to the private soldier; for, when entering the service, he knew the difficulty in the way of his becoming a commissioned officer. The system of promotion by merit could not co-exist with the system of promotion by purchase. The motion of the noble Lord, therefore, would sweep away the existing system, and he had suggested no scheme in its room. He opposed the motion.

A discussion then took place, in the course of which Lord Lovaine, Colonel Sibthorpe, Sir John Walsh, Lord Seymour, and Lord Elcho, spoke against the motion; and Mr. Otway, Mr. Warner, Captain Scobell, and Mr. J. Ball, addressed the House in favour of the motion.

Sir DE LACY EVANS (who was loudly cheered) said he had come down to the House for the especial purpose of supporting the motion, and of denouncing the system of purchase in the Army, as being fraught with the grossest injustice, most detrimental to our interests, and tending to discourage the exertions of our brave soldiers in times of battle and of difficulty.

Mr. S. HERBERT argued in favour of the existing system; but said that all due encouragement should be given to promotion from the ranks whenever great merit was distinguishable.

Sir E. FERRY supported the motion.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted the evils of the present system, but thought it unwise to commit the House to a resolution which would compel them at once to change a system that had been established for such a long period of time in the country.

The House having divided, the numbers were—

For the motion	114
Against it	158
Majority against the motion	—44

THE BAND PLAYING IN THE FRENCH CAMP.

THE French have shown their superiority to the English in the attention they have paid to the maintenance of their military bands, as in everything else. While the English Camp has been for weeks, if not months, without any attempt to cheer the hearts of the men with inspiring martial airs, our more mercurial neighbours have kept up the regular practice of the bands, which has had an excellent effect upon the soldiers.

The Sketch which our Artist has given of the French Camp has a much more cheerful air than that of any portion of our Cantonnements. In the foreground, towards the left, General Canrobert is returning from a ride, followed by an aide-de-camp and two *hussards*. The huts are intermixed with tents, and the place altogether has much the appearance of a Bulgarian village. The English soldiers on their way from the lines pass through this encampment, and generally make a halt there on their way to and from Balaclava, especially when the band is playing. Occasionally the English visitors crowd round the musicians, and frequently some one pulls a bottle of brandy out of his pocket, and insists on the Frenchmen taking a glass, to keep the cold out of their stomachs. Sometimes a couple of Irish soldiers dance a jig, to the great amusement of the bystanders. When the band has finished playing, off go a number of the men with their English visitors arm-in-arm to the canteen (which may be seen on the left, with a cart and several barrels near it), where they will no doubt do their best to counteract the evil effects of cold in the trenches.

HALIFAX ELECTION.—The nomination is fixed for Saturday (to-day), and will not, according to present appearances, be a matter of form only. Sir Charles Wood, the new First Lord of the Admiralty, is threatened with the opposition of Henry Edwards, Esq., Major in the 2nd West York Yeomanry, a Tory of the old school, and possessing an extensive local influence. Mr. Edwards once sat for Halifax with Sir Charles Wood, and was defeated at the last election by a very narrow majority. The contest—if it take place—will be a close one. The honourable Baronet has issued an address, in which he says:—“Gentlemen,—At a period of no ordinary importance I have been called upon to undertake the heavy and responsible charge of the direction of the naval resources of this country. If I had only my own wishes to consult, I should have remained in an office where I have taken the deepest interest in the administration of our Indian empire. I did not, however, consider myself justified in shrinking from any post in which it was thought that whatever service I could render would be most usefully given to my Sovereign and to the country. My acceptance of the office of First Lord of the Admiralty makes it necessary that I should appeal to you, gentlemen, to pass an opinion upon my conduct by your votes. I am more than usually anxious that, by again sending me as your representative to Parliament, you should mark your approval of the course which I have taken in pursuance of what I believed to be the clear line of my public duty. I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your grateful and obedient servant,—CHARLES WOOD.—Belgrave-square.”

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS, on Monday last, paid a graceful and well-deserved compliment to the French school, by unanimously recommending that her Majesty should be pleased to confer the Royal Gold Medal of the Institute upon Monsieur Hittorff, architect, of Paris, Member of the French Institut, and Honorary and Corresponding Member of the British Institute. The many fine buildings erected by that gentleman at Paris, and his numerous published works upon the art, eminently entitled M. Hittorff, to the testimony thus gracefully borne to his merits by his English professional brethren.

M. SOYER has left London for Scutari, via Marseilles, where he trusts to “be enabled to render some service to our poor suffering brethren, and, with the cordial co-operation of the authorities there, to place the *cuisine* in such a perfect state that will supply all future wants with comfort, economy, and expedition.”

COMMERCIAL EMBARRASSMENT IN RUSSIA.—A letter from Moscow states that trade is completely dead there. Four great failures took place in a single day, and other disasters of a similar kind have taken place in other parts of the Russian empire.

M. Lecomte's “Arabian Night” concerning Mdlle. Rachel's American engagement has been denounced as a fabrication by M. Raphael Félix, brother to the lady, and manager of her tours. M. Raphael Félix has addressed to the journals a letter declaring that the contract, the embalming, and all the other incidents of “the wondrous tale,” are only so many falsehoods.

THE REORGANISATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A THICK Parliamentary volume has recently been published, called “Papers relating to the Reorganisation of the Civil Service,” which contains a collection of the opinions of nearly forty distinguished persons on the plan and the report of Sir Stafford Northcote and Sir C. Trevelyan for the reorganisation of this service. To this collection Mr. Chadwick has contributed the most elaborate paper in the volume, especially intended to show “the results already obtained by competitive examinations for appointments, and the necessity of further securities to insure promotion for merit in the public service,” which has been issued in a separate form. These publications induce us to advert to the subject. It has for a considerable time occupied the attention of official men; and, as many of the sufferings in the Crimea are attributed to the inefficient co-operation of the Civil Service, its reorganisation is now, or as speedily as the more urgent affairs of the war will permit, likely to be pressed forward.

In society at large there is a natural principle of growth. One generation is more numerous than its predecessor, and has all the advantages of its predecessor's experience. It is older, though born of the other, and wiser. As men increase in numbers and in knowledge, division of labour continually extends, individuals become more and more dependent on one another, competition sharpens the faculties of all, and all are mutually improved. If one tradesman is uncivil, sells his goods dear, and keeps a dirty shop, he loses his business. In every street the shopkeepers vie with each other who shall serve his customers best and be most obliging. A similar spirit pervades every class of industrious men. Labourers compete with one another who shall do their work best and get most money. Manufacturers compete in the making of clothing, engineers in constructing railways, and authors in writing books, and all striving to do the best they can, there is from natural causes continual and general improvement in society. There is nothing similar in Governments. They are not the sources of social progress. They have in them no inherent principle of improvement, and never compete against each other for the obedience and respect of the people.

In modern times there has been a contest of opinions as to which of several forms of Government is the best; but the Emperor of the French, the Czar of Russia, the Parliament of England, or the Congress of the United States has never offered to supply the article government on the cheapest and best terms to a world just now very desirous of being well and properly governed. So in the different departments of our Government and every other Government, there is no competition as to which of them shall do its duty towards the people and get the greatest rewards. The Horse Guards does not offer a cheaper and better article than the Treasury, nor the Treasury a cheaper and better article than the Home-office, but each and all work together, without much or any regard to their customers, the people whom they serve. They are organised for a particular purpose, and have their duty regulated by one office or power—the Treasury or the Ministry, which is again nominally responsible to Parliament. As things are now managed, however, the Ministry being in the main the organ of Parliament, for purposes of responsibility these two bodies are nearly identical. The heads of different departments may intrigue against each other, and sometimes bid for popular support, but obviously the public departments are wholly deficient of that principle of competition in relation to the public, which in society at large is the source of general improvement. Hence Sir Stafford Northcote and Sir C. Trevelyan, in their report on the Organisation of the Permanent Civil Service, describe the absence of competition as “one of the natural difficulties under which the Civil Service labours” in contradistinction from all the professions and all the businesses of life, and which makes the Civil Service at all times, in comparison with them, slothful, apathetic, negligent, and behind general society. No means are, or perhaps can be, provided to keep watchers awake to take care of those who should take care of others. *Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?* They slumber at their posts, utterly fail to see shoals and rocks ahead, squalls brewing, and hurricanes that beset the path of the nation, and often when danger (as now) arises, they must be disregarded or put aside by the public to ensure its safety.

The two gentlemen just referred to officially and solemnly declare that the entrance into the Civil Service is chiefly sought after by the unambitious, the indolent, or the incapable. “Those who cannot succeed elsewhere are placed on the Civil Service,” which is burdened with persons below the average of society in industry and ability. Sir James Stephen, for a long period Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, says “The majority of the members of the Colonial Department, in my time, possessed only in a low degree—and some of them in a degree almost incredibly low—either the talents or the habits of men of business, or the industry, the zeal, or the knowledge required for the effective performance of their appropriate functions.” Mr. Chadwick, who quotes the passage, confirms it by the testimony of Sir Robert Peel, and concludes “that the inefficiency of the Civil Service, as compared with *rude* private service, constitutes an argument for amendment.” He shows, too, that a similar kind of inefficiency pervades the Civil Service of the United States, and has pervaded or still pervades several branches of the Civil Service in Germany and France; though he infers the possibility, by dint of regulations and a superior organisation, to make the Civil Service, of which competition never can be throughout the living principle, though it may be partially and locally acted on, superior to what he calls “rude private service.” An examination, however, of his elaborate paper, and of all that has been written on the subject, shows that the principle which he and all the others rely on for improvement is the principle of competition as it exists in general society; and that neither he nor any other person has found out or imagined motives for diligence and care other than or superior to those motives which ensure success in private life, and which involve every man's fortune and fame. If they can only produce “rude” service, no regulations can produce any better, for all regulations must in their effects fall short of the motives which in the competition of general society continually spur men on to excellence.

Every person who has investigated the subject agrees in the opinion that the Civil Service is essentially defective. In considering the means of improvement, we must remember that the bulk of the improvements already from time to time introduced into it sprang from men whose minds had been formed outside of it. Even Sir Charles Trevelyan was educated in the East India Company's service, which was never wholly shut out, like the service of Government, from competition. It had, in fact, always to compete with Government for its existence; and all its members shared to some extent in the advantages of the principle. The other great reformers of the Civil Service—Mr. Porter, at the Board of Trade, whose influence was felt through all the statistics of the empire; Mr. Finlayson, who introduced reform into the Annuity department of the finances; Mr. Farr, the chief author of all the details of the system of registration; Mr. Rowland Hill, to whom the public is indebted for Post-office improvement; Mr. Wilson, the present Secretary of the Treasury, who has simplified and improved the Revenue accounts; and even Mr. Chadwick himself, the author of many improvements in the Civil Service, were all formed by the competition of general society. The first was a wine-merchant, the second an actuary of an insurance office, the third a private medical practitioner, the fourth a schoolmaster, the fifth a hatter, and the sixth a diligent contributor to the press, or what is called a penny-a-liner, and a public writer for any person who would employ his pen. By far the most valuable improvements which have latterly, or at any time, been made in the Civil Service, have originated with men who have not been formed in it and by it, but outside of it, in that general society which has in it a principle of growth and improvement; and not in the Civil Service, which, of itself, is naturally and thoroughly conservative, stationary, torpid, and stagnant.

It is now proposed to improve it by competitive examinations, to be made the bases of all future appointments; but these can be at best only poor substitutes for the actual active competition which, in general society, begins at school, follows the youth into the counting-house, the workshop, or the surgery, and builds up the man through life, till he transcends all other men, or sinks into a humble and forgotten grave. It is impossible that the utmost skill of all the Chadwicks and Trevelyan's can by their regulations make the Civil Service of the Crown superior to the general society; and they might think themselves but too successful could they approximate it even to that which Mr. Chadwick has very strangely called “rude private service.”

One of the great means relied on to improve the Civil Service is examination by boards of examiners. There must be a special examination for every office, so that examination would become a large onerous and costly branch of the Civil Service. How inefficient this would be, however carefully devised, is shown by Mr. Chadwick. He objects to the academic examination recommended by the two official Baronets, that it would have excluded from the public service more than one recent Lord Chancellor and Chief Justice, who began life as young clerks in attorneys' offices. We have a thorough conviction, too, that it would have excluded from the Civil Service every one of the reformers, including Mr. Chadwick himself, we have above referred to. It would have excluded (he says) the late Duke of Wellington from the Army, and Nelson from the Navy. It would have placed, according to him, at the top of all competitors, a late superintendent

of machinery at Woolwich, who from his mathematical education, declared that if a locomotive were made to drag without cogs, he would undertake to eat the engine, and the rails into the bargain. It would have bestowed honours on those who decided that the screw propeller was impossible, on the principle that action and reaction are equal and contrary, and have excluded from the Government service, those who have made it the great instrument of modern navigation. It would have received with acclamation the Astronomer Royal, who proved mathematically that the Crystal Palace could not stand; and would have turned away Sir Joseph Paxton, who made it the ornament of the land and introduced by it great structural improvements. Thus Mr. Chadwick demolishes the artificial examinations he recommends, and leaves us without any rational hope of effecting any great improvement in a service founded on a principle thoroughly in opposition to competition. Destitute of this principle, as it must essentially remain, the Civil Service, however much it may be momentarily improved, will for ever lag behind general society, except in cases—as in Germany and France—where the Civil Service becomes so vast and multifarious, and is so cunningly organised, as to embrace the whole nation, and suppress every improvement but that which springs from itself. Then, however, it runs counter to nature; and the more admirable and complete it is, the more certain and speedily does it lead to revolution. We differ, with regret and with much diffidence, from the great authorities we have before us; but, while we take them as unexceptionable witnesses to the present imperfect state of our national contrivances, we are compelled to conclude against them that the remedies they propose, though not to be rejected, would be only temporary, partial, and incomplete. They aim at making the Civil Service permanently superior to general society, or what they call “rude private service,” which they can only accomplish by rooting out from this the great natural spring of improvement. To no man nor men is the power given to accomplish this except by extirpating the human race. The Civil Service must remain inferior to general society.

MR. LAYARD AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

On Wednesday, pursuant to invitation, the County-hall at Aylesbury was densely filled with the electors of the borough and hundred, to hear from Mr. Layard an account of his Parliamentary conduct since his election, and his opinion on the state of affairs in the East. On the platform were several of the more influential Liberals of the borough; and the chair was taken by Mr. Acton Tindall, the Clerk of the Peace. Mr. Layard and his friends entered the hall at half-past three o'clock; immediately after which the Chairman briefly opened the proceedings.

Mr. Layard, in the opening of his speech, was at some pains to defend himself from the charge of having betrayed confidence in publishing an attack upon Admiral Dundas. In doing so he denied that he had reported for the *Times*, or that he had any political connection with that journal. As regards the offers which had been made to him by Government, he made the following statement:—

Some time before I had the honour of representing Aylesbury I returned from the East, being then in a diplomatic position. Lord Granville named me as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and I served for a short time in the Foreign-office; but, as you remember, Lord J. Russell's Ministry went out about three weeks after. Of course it was my duty to go out with the Government, but Lord Derby, who succeeded, behaved to me in the most handsome manner. I was not then in Parliament, but Lord Derby told me I might remain in the office until his son returned from India, as he intended him for the post; but then, if he continued at the head of affairs, he would give me an equivalent appointment, or a diplomatic mission on the Continent. That was a handsome offer, and one which I could have accepted without any compromise of principle. I had not as yet entered life as a public man, and could have easily accepted the mission abroad. All my political friends were of opinion that I should accept the offer, except Lord J. Russell, who expressed himself to the contrary, and his opinion I did not hesitate to follow. The consequence was that I definitely refused Lord Derby's offer. Lord Derby remained but a very short time in office, and Lord Aberdeen succeeded him. Lord J. Russell considered that I, having given up this borough and given up office for his sake, was fairly entitled to a position in the new Government, and accordingly put me down as Under-Secretary for the Board of Control. Shortly afterwards the same noble Lord sent for me and informed me that a gentleman remained unprovided for whose ability and long public services entitled him to a position, and his Lordship threw himself upon me to resign my office in favour of this gentleman. I felt that it was my duty to place my office before private considerations, acceded to Lord John Russell's request, and Sir Thomas Redington was appointed to the Board of Control. Shortly afterwards Lord John Russell offered me a Consulship in Egypt; but that I declined on various grounds, the first being that, having put my constituents to considerable trouble in electing me, I could not go abroad and leave them to fight another battle (cheers). Shortly afterwards the great question now agitating the world began to show itself in the East, and Lord Stratford de Redcliffe was sent to Constantinople. He was anxious that I should accompany him, and I did so at great personal inconvenience, appealing to your kind indulgence to permit me to absent myself from Parliament. I declined office, and went on my own account, and almost at my own expense, so anxious was I to be of some use to the public. After I went, those questions arose about which I differed from Lord Stratford; and, after remaining until I found I could be of no further use, I returned to this country, and took the line of which you are all aware respecting the war (Hear). Well, having taken that line, I could not expect any further office from Government, although I must tell you that on refusing the Consulship I was distinctly promised the first appointment that should be open. It has been said that my line was adopted in consequence of personal disappointment, but I now want to show my constituents that, if my object had been place, my surest course would have been to hold my tongue. I took that line, however, and continued it for two years, when Government, having sustained a great defeat, went out of office, and Lord Palmerston succeeded. You are aware that, although he was nominally a new Government, it contained a large majority of the members of the old one. Lord Palmerston offered to appoint me Clerk of the Ordnance; but I felt that, having voted only two days before that no confidence ought to be placed in the late Government, I could not consistently take office in another composed chiefly of the same materials (“Hear,” and cheers). Secondly, I recollect that I had stated it to be the duty of Government to put the right men in the right places, and I was in no way connected with the Ordnance. I felt, therefore, that I should betray my own principle if I accepted an office in which I could not serve the public. The consequence was that I refused office, and made a speech of which you are aware. In the meantime the new Government disagreed, three of its most important members retired, and Lord Palmerston attempted to form a new Government. On Friday last his Lordship sent for me, and offered me the office of Under-Secretary at War. Now, although not anxious for office, yet, having expressed such strong opinions, I felt that I should not be doing my duty to the public if I shrink from accepting such office when offered. It would look as if I feared to incur the criticism of which I had been so unspurting. Therefore, when Lord Palmerston offered me the office, I simply made some conditions as to being allowed certain influence, and accepted it. But on the following day Lord Palmerston sent for me again, and said that for certain important reasons he was obliged to withdraw his offer, but that at Lord John Russell's request I could have the office of Under-Secretary for the Colonies. I now felt that I was in the same position as I had been a few days before. I was not acquainted with the Colonies, and although, in time of peace, I might have had time for learning, I felt that, at a moment of great national emergency, public men, when called on to act, would betray themselves if they attempted to do that for which they had had no previous preparation. I, therefore, declined the office, at the same time informing Lord Palmerston, that if he succeeded in forming a Government worthy of the public confidence, and of my confidence, he should have my independent support.

Mr. Layard then proceeded to criticise the conduct of Ministers from the commencement of the Russian aggression, condemning in strong terms the indecision of the Aberdeen Cabinet. If we had exhibited a bold front at the beginning there would have been no war. It was our timid policy, the natural result of a divided Cabinet, which led the Emperor of Russia to persist in his aggression. The very phrase used by Lord Clarendon in the summer of 1853, that we were “drifting into war,” showed how much Ministers had been to blame. That was not a word for a statesman appointed to guard the destinies of a country. A ship drifted into danger only when she had no one at the helm. After glancing at the various blunders committed by Government since the war began, he said he disapproved of the appointment

MUSIC.

"THE STAR OF THE NORII," AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.—Mr. Smith, of Drury Lane, has forestalled Mr. Gye in the production of Meyerbeer's comic opera, "L'Etoile du Nord"—the latest work of that renowned musician, beyond comparison the greatest dramatic composer now living. It was Mr. Gye's intention, could he have accomplished it, to bring out this opera at Covent Garden last season, immediately after its original production at Paris; and there seems no doubt that he will do so during the season about to begin. In using the word "forestalled," we do not impute any blame to the manager of Drury Lane. He has done what he doubtless had a good right to do. The opera has already been performed at many theatres, in France, Belgium, and Germany; the right of representing it is public property, and a correct version of the piece can be obtained without recourse to any surreptitious means. But, certainly, Mr. Smith has taken from the work something of its bloom, and given, to those to whom it was new, an impression of it differing considerably from what would have been produced by witnessing its first representation with all the "appliances and means to boot" of the Royal Italian Opera. But, on the other hand, he has made it known to many who do not visit that high-priced theatre, and who are satisfied with a lower standard of excellence. On the whole, indeed, he may be said to have done wonders, having contrived to get up the opera with a completeness and splendour, which, considering his limited means, we could scarcely have believed possible. When he undertook to bring it out, he had to create a whole establishment for that express purpose. He had to form an entire company of vocal performers; to provide an instrumental orchestra, and a chorus; together with the numberless items required for a musical theatre; and all this he had to do in such a way as to give his speculation a reasonable prospect of success, and not of certain and ruinous loss. He has succeeded; and, we think, has deserved to succeed.

It would be tedious and useless to detail the subject of this drama. The *Star of the North* is the Empress Catherine, the wife of Peter the Great, who (according to M. Scribe's version of her history) gained the Emperor's affections while he was working as a journeyman carpenter in a Finland dockyard, and she was one of the *canadiennes* who supplied the workmen with brandy and provisions. She afterwards discovers and saves him from a dangerous conspiracy among his officers, and nearly sacrifices her life in his cause, undergoing sufferings which for a time deprive her of reason. Recovering her senses through the attentions of her Royal lover, she finds herself at last raised by him to the Imperial throne. These incidents are developed in a manner well calculated for dramatic and musical effect. There are strong situations and passionate scenes; but the general tone of the piece is gay and lively; Peter himself being decidedly a comic character—blunt, homely, and familiar—with the Russian propensity to get drunk. There are some capital sketches of camp-life, in which Meyerbeer has made use of the music originally written for his much-talked-of but little-known opera, the "Camp of Silesia."

The music, like that of "Robert le Diable," the "Huguenots," and the "Prophète," must be familiarised to the ear by repeated hearing before it can be thoroughly understood and appreciated. Indeed, it is more strongly marked with his peculiarities than any of his previous works. It depicts even more from recognised and conventional forms. It appears to be less melodious (but is not really so), because the melodies, from their novelty of rhythm and style, are more difficult to be caught by the ear; but, when once caught, make a deeper and more enduring impression than more familiar strains. In this work, as in the "Prophète," Meyerbeer affords no facilities to the singers; he expects them to take the most chromatic and unvocal intervals with the certainty of an instrument. His concerted music is full of unusual combinations and transitions, which appear harsh and rugged because they are unusual; for when once we are used to them their harshness disappears. The taste, in short, for music of this kind is not like the taste for a national tune, which (like the taste for honey) the child possesses as well as the artist; it is the *acquired taste* which is the result of art, and which like the taste for things at first bitter in the mouth) at last becomes the strongest of all. We feel by degrees that such music has a purpose beyond merely pleasing the ear—that it speaks, not to the sense alone, but to the mind and the heart. But its difficulty is in proportion to its power. To produce its full effect it demands a perfection of execution which is rarely obtained, while it generally happens that the music bears the blame due to the performance.

The performance of Monday evening was necessarily and unavoidably full of imperfections, but yet (as has been said) much more satisfactory than could have been expected. It was a great advantage that the part of the Emperor was sustained by Mr. Henry Drayton, a sound musician, and an excellent performer. Mlle. Jenny Baur, a singer newly arrived from Germany, who appeared in the character of *Catherine*, showed a considerable degree of vocal power and fluency of execution; but she forced her voice too much, and sang out of tune. If she would sing with less effort she would sing better. The second female part—an interesting country girl—was well acted, and sung by Mrs. Drayton; and, in the principal tenor part, Mr. Miranda acquitted himself respectably. In the concerted music, the choruses, and the orchestral parts, there was great room for improvement. They were confused, incorrect, and often intolerably noisy. But these faults, it may be hoped, will diminish with repetition. The spectacle, and general *mise en scène*, left nothing to be desired. It was not only gorgeous and magnificent, but in excellent taste. The house was crowded from the floor to the ceiling, and the performance was received with enthusiastic applause. It was impossible that a great miscellaneous audience could fully appreciate the beauties of such a work, through the medium of an imperfect performance; but, with every drawback, it had a general effect of beauty and power sufficient to account for the impression it made.

We shall engrave a scene next week.

HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.—Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang," and Rossini's "Stabat Mater," are to be performed at the next concert of the Harmonic Union, which is fixed for Wednesday evening. The latter work is new to our great London Choral Societies, the regulations of Exeter-hall preventing its performance in that building. Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss Lascelles, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss, are announced as the principal vocalists, the conductor being Herr Molique.

THE THEATRES.

SADLER'S WELLS.—"Macbeth" was revived on Saturday and was well received by a very numerous audience. The cast was considerably varied. Mr. Robinson, a performer who has been gradually improving in his profession, was advanced to the rôle of *Macduff*, and performed it with elegance and spirit. Miss Atkinson, also, was tried in *Lady Macbeth*. With many qualities of natural force, this young lady has yet to acquire steadiness and weight. It cannot be said that she has yet formed a decided conception of character, or fixed the exact reading of the part. Much is yet accidental, or tentative; hard private study and considerable practice are both sternly requisite, in order to the cultivation of taste and to enable her to vary as well as to facilitate the execution of the tragic high class of abstract histrionic impersonations; nevertheless, under proper discipline, there is hope for the future in the energy at present developed. Mr. Phelps paid especial attention to the psychological scene in the third act, in which, while conscious of having secured the assassination of *Banquo*, the new-made monarch, mystifies his Queen, having now recovered his marital supremacy, and assumed the independent direction of affairs, without counsel or aid from his wife, whom he would wish henceforward to be ignorant of the crimes that destiny and his position may compel him to commit. The triumph and finesse, with the superstitious bewilderment and disguise, the weird imagery and the secret hypocrisy—all these elements were carefully embodied. This performance of the tragedy (into which Lock's music and the melodramatic crowd of witches are not admitted) powerfully affects the imagination with a sense of reality, and intensifies the passions of pity and terror which it was the poet's purpose to awaken.

HAYMARKET.—Senora Perea Nena, with an entirely new group of attendants, reappeared on Monday at this theatre. The management has signalled her return by improved stage decorations; and the impression made by the Senora's dancing is likely to increase, for the brilliancy now displayed in her *pas* even exceeds that of former seasons. Two new ballets have been introduced, of indescribable plots, but full of interest, motion, novelty, and dashing effect; particularly a Galician *pas de deux* with Senor Marcos Diaz, which was wonderful.

RECEM.—This theatre closed on Saturday, but reopened on Monday, when we witnessed the performance of the new piece entitled "Too Much of a Good Thing." The fabric of the drama is slight, and the development merely technical, aiming at no probability, and satisfied with any small effect, any how obtained. A dummy performs an important part in it; first, occupying the bed of a pretended invalid husband, during his nocturnal absences at Cremorne; and next that of his too-loving wife, after the trick has been discovered. Captain Hector Montgomery (Mr.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

Roxby) had resorted to the *ruse* in order to get some time to himself from the excessive attentions of his over-affectionate spouse; but the expedient has a tendency to lead to inidelity and dissipation. The cure is effected by the presence of his own lay figure in her chamber. Mr. Roxby acted with his usual animation; and Miss Hughes, as his wife, *Isabel*, evinced much retiring grace which was well enough contrasted by the dashing conduct of Mrs. Diana Brandysnap (Mrs. F. Matthews), the friendly medium for effecting the required change in the situation of the married couple. The attraction of trifles like this, however well acted, is evidently on the wane; for the house, we regret to say, was indifferently attended. The spirit of the times is in favour of sterner realities; and Mr. C. Matthews would, we think, do well to provide a weightier and more elaborate kind of drama, in stricter accordance with the prevailing mood of the public mind.

Mrs. Howard Paul (late Miss Featherstone) gave a musical entertainment at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, on Monday evening, which was fashionably attended. At the request of Lieut.-Colonel Ellison and the officers of the North Lincoln Militia (who bestowed their patronage) a vaudeville was also enacted, in which Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul performed with much satisfaction.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

I. H. A., Liverpool.—1. The taller of the two pieces, the top of which forms the regal British crown, is meant for the King. 2. Your Solution is altogether wrong.

LILAWATI.—In such a position the King cannot take the Bishop.

CHURCH, RURIS.—It shall have attention.

A. A. LAMONT.—1. A. Z. B. Y. are to be attentively examined.

M. DE C. P.—1. A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. All look beneath our standard.

Vox H. Brussels.—We are, indeed, very greatly obliged by the offer, and in return shall have sincere pleasure in placing the words mentioned at your disposal.

E. B. C., New Jersey.—The question whether a player is compelled to take an adverse Pawn in *passing*, when he has no other move at command, still remains a moot point, and will continue so until the whole code of Chess laws undergoes authoritative revision. Your view is the popular and plausible one, and is supported by considerable ingenuity, but we still adhere fixedly to the persuasion that, when a player has once advanced his Pawn to the 4th square, it is optional with his opponent to take that Pawn in *passing* or not.

M. DE B., Paris.—Your last has been replied to by letter.

VIGIL.—You will find some account of the chief metropolitan chess-clubs, divans, &c., in Mr. John Timb's recently-published "Curiosities of London"—a work, we must take leave to say, which, for the extent and accuracy of its research, and the encyclopedic variety of its information, is entitled to rank among the most remarkable of the many interesting books, from the times of Speight and Stow to those of Knight and Cunningham, which have treated of that inexhaustible theme—the Modern Babylon.

J. R. CROM, AYTON.—The "Chess-Player's Handbook," published by Bohm, Price 3s.

T. R. C.—We know nothing of the game.

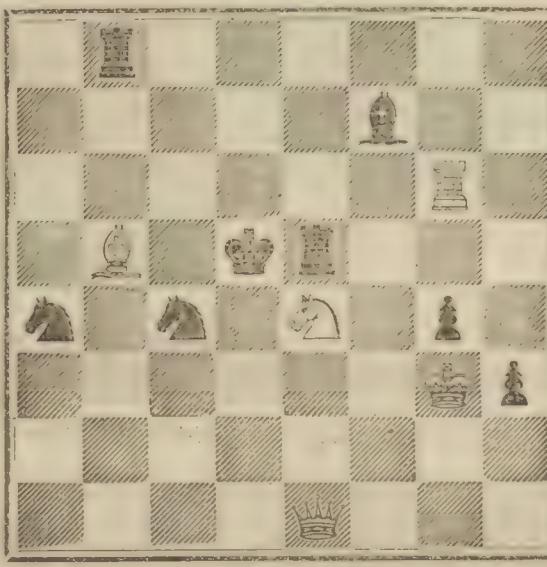
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 574 by Rex, P. T. F., Temple, J. M., F. T., Derby; Short, Rotherham are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 575 by W. C. Streatham, L. H., F. T., Herby; F. R., Norwich, Peters, Rex, Pinckney, Philip, Medicus, R. H., A. Z., Admirer, S. P. Q. R., Devon, R. F., Royal Artillery, Argus, Pascha, Clement, Ferret, P. C., G. S., Wynsday, Ciericus, M. F., Hall, Stanley, are correct. All others are wrong.

PROBLEM NO. 576.

By J. B. of Bridport.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

A CHESS MANUSCRIPT.

(Continued from page 179.)

The editor of "Le Palamède," M. St. Amant, in his analysis of the fourth game played by him against Mr. Staunton, appears to condemn himself for the defence of *Q* to *K 2nd* at the fourth move of the Giuoco Piano. The most superficial examination, however, suffices to prove that it was not this move which lost the game, and M. St. Amant, indeed, clearly shows this in his examination. I was curious to see what the old masters thought of this same defence, and, opening my ancient MS. I discovered the following débüt, expressly calculated, it would seem, to paralyse the move of *Q* to *K 2nd*:

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	5. Q to K 2nd	What he will
2. K to K B 3rd	Q K to Q B 3rd	6. P to K 4th	K B to K B 3rd
3. K to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	7. P to Q 4th	What he will
4. P to Q B 3rd	Q to K 2nd	8. Q B to Q R 3rd	

(a) Sic in original.

The position of White is certainly very fine. Amateurs should examine whether Black at the 7th move could not do something to enfeeble it. We here see that Leonardo, to oppose advantageously the defence of *Q* to *K 2nd*, thinks proper to reply with the same move.

The following is another opening of Leonardo, in which he himself adopts the defence of *Q* to *K 2nd*, successfully; but in this case the first player moves the *P* to *Q B 3rd*, before bringing out his *Kt*.

BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	6. Q B to K Kt 5th	B takes K B P (ch)
2. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	7. K takes B	Kt to K Kt 5th
3. P to Q B 3rd	Q to K 2nd	(ch)	
4. Kt to K 2nd	Kt to K B 3rd	8. K retires	Q takes B
5. P to Q 3rd	P to Q 3rd		

White has *déroulé* Black and gained a Pawn.

The next is a Game of G. Cesare Polerio, which would seem to prove that *Q* to *K 2nd* on the 4th move, is a bad defence; but I doubt whether the play, especially on Black's part, is altogether irreproachable. However, if Black's defence is feeble, the attack of White appears to me sufficiently vigorous, and the game may probably on that account prove not without interest.

WHITE.	BLACK.	WHITE.	BLACK.
1. P to K 4th	P to K 4th	12. Kt to Kt 5th	K Kt to K R 3rd
2. K Kt to K B 3rd	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	13. Q Kt to Q 5th	P takes P
3. K B to Q B 4th	K B to Q B 4th	14. P takes P	Q takes P
4. P to Q B 3rd	Q to K 2nd	15. Q B to K B 4th	Q to her B 4th
5. Castles	K Kt to K B	16. Kt takes B	Q takes Kt
6. P to Q 4th*	P takes P (b)	17. R to K sq (ch)	K to Q sq
7. P takes P	K B to Q Kt 3rd	18. R takes K B P	K R to K B sq
8. P to K 5th	K Kt to his sq	19. Kt to K 6th (ch)	K to his 2nd
9. P to Q 5th	Q Kt to his sq	20. Q to her 6th (ch)	K takes B
10. P to Q 6th	Q K to B sq	21. Q takes K B (ch)	K to Kt 3rd
11. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	Q Kt to Q B 3rd	22. Q takes Kt P (ch)	And White wins.

(Notes by the Editor.)

(a) Better to play *P* to *Q 3rd*.
(b) Here the second player should rather have retreated his Bishop to *Q Kt 3rd*.

* In the game referred to, Mr. Staunton played *P* to *Q 4th* at the fifth move, which makes every thing worse. The moves then proceeded as follows:—

5. P to Q 4th	P takes P	13. P to K B 5th	Q to K B 3rd
6. Castles	Q Kt to K 4th	14. P to K 5th	K to Q B 2nd
7. K takes Kt	Q takes Kt	15. Q B takes Kt	Q takes B
8. P to K B 4th	P tks Q B P (dis. ch)	16. Kt to K 4th	B to Q 5th
9. K to R sq	Q to her 5th	17. Kt to Q 6th	Q to K R 4th
10. Q to her Kt 3rd	Kt to K R 3rd	18. B takes K B P (ch)	R takes B
11.			

THE
BRITISH INSTITUTION.
(FOURTH NOTICE.)

WE resume this week our illustrations and our comments. Our Engravings are taken from the contributions of two young artists, whose works exhibit abundant proofs that at least they are on some miles in the high road to future distinction. Mr. Hemsley supplies us with one of the two pictures he has sent—a scene from rustic life, which tells its own story, but which the Catalogue conceals in the general title of "Expectation." It would be easy to give it a name far more applicable, and doubtless our readers will, at a glance, soon find many titles much more appropriate. A curious paper might be written on what pictures are like from the titles given them in catalogues. We doubt if any imaginative, or even matter-of-fact critic would, from "Expectation" guess at a scene such as Mr. Hemsley has so cleverly painted, and so loosely named. Let us add that Mr. Hemsley is a conscientious painter; he does not shirk his work; and though his canvas is small, he knows how much excellence a few inches of panel may be made to contain.

Our other artist of this week is Mr. T. Earl, whose "Dream of the Shepherd's Dog" (No. 464) is by very far the best work that we have seen from his hand. Here is a healthy Highland boy asleep in his roughly-made wooden cradle, watched by a collie with which he has evidently gambolled till he fell asleep. Almost his last thoughts turned upon this dog, and the artist has poetically shown what the boy's thoughts are as he sleeps soundly in his cradle. He is dreaming of future years, when, with his faithful collie by his side, he shall be a lad and able to watch his sheep on the sides of his native mountains. The present and the future of childhood and *ladhood* (if we may be allowed the expression) have seldom been more suggestively indicated. Here is a sweet picture of the Pleasures and not of the sorrows of Hope (Campbell rather than Crabbe), built, no doubt, partly on some of Landseer's Highland scenes, and, in some degree, on the "Soldier's Dream" of Mr. Goodall, but in no way so closely as to detract from the fair originality of the idea. With such a subject Landseer would have added some touches of truth to the coat of the dog, but he would not have told the future so poetically, if, indeed, he ever sees further than the scenes actually and unmistakeably before him. Mr. Earl's other works in the Exhibition are by no means so good as this. After the picture we have engraved of his, we



"EXPECTATION."—PAINTED BY W. HEMSLEY.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

would prefer to possess "Interior of a Cottage near Stratford-upon-Avon" (No. 130), of which the general effect is excellent, though the details are too general.

On renewing our acquaintance with the Exhibition we wish to repair two slight omissions on our part. Mr. Carmichael's "View of the Great Harbour of Malta from the Corladino" (No. 154), painted from a sketch by Captain Hotham, merits to be named for the skilful manner in which the artist has embodied the rude outlines of an amateur, and put before us a scene that, but for the Catalogue, the crews of all her Majesty's ships that ever touched at Malta would declare at once was painted on the spot. Our other omission is one of the same character, and relates to Mr. Glass's picture, "A Border Spear"—a picture that would have delighted the heart of Sir Walter Scott, so true is it to times of border warfare, when at all seasons of the year, the Howards and Musgraves on the English side, and the Scotts and Armstrongs on the Scottish side, made bold and bloody forays one upon the other. Mr. Glass has given us what we could almost call the famous ride in "The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

HAYTER'S PICTURE OF "WELLINGTON CONTEMPLATING THE NAPOLEON RELICS." Engraved by James Scott. Graves and Co.—Sir George Hayter's historical picture of "The Duke of Wellington Contemplating the Napoleon Relics," at Madame Tussaud's, has been engraved in the finest style of art by Mr. James Scott. The subject is extremely striking and suggestive—the living hero surveying with a feeling of sympathy and sadness the bauble remains of his defeated rival, whose effigy lies before him in all the calmness of sleep. The various details of costume, furniture, arms, &c., are also historically interesting. Mr. Scott has done ample justice to these varied materials.

ART COLLECTION IN BIRMINGHAM.—The collection of objects in metal, glass, china, &c., selected from the museum at Marlborough House, was opened in Birmingham on Saturday, when upwards of 500 of the inhabitants of the town visited the rooms of the Society of Artists, where the collection is to be exhibited. Many of the leading manufacturers were present during the day, and all the visitors expressed themselves delighted with the collection. The exhibition has been supplemented by contributions from gentlemen of the town and district.

Rewards for Distinguished Services.—Sergeant-Major Thomas, of the Grenadier Guards, has received an annuity of £20, with 2s. per diem, in reward for his distinguished services at Inkermann, where, in conjunction with Private Lee, he saved the regimental colours. The latter has been advanced to the rank of sergeant, with a similar pecuniary reward.



"THE DREAM OF THE SHEPHERD'S DOG."—PAINTED BY T. EARL.—FROM THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

PARIS FASHIONS
FOR MARCH.

At the approach of the London season we cannot do better than speak of ball dresses and toilettes. We have had four brilliant *rénunions* this winter; the war, and the mourning into which numbers of families have been thrown, having prevented many *salons* from being opened, or *fêtes* given. England is, unhappily, in the same condition.

Rose is the favourite colour for balls in the coming season. The ball of the *Préfet* of the Seine has presented us with an example, although it is not cited as one at which the ladies displayed their freshest toilettes; for few persons in so numerous and crowded a *rénunion* care to wear a dress that has not lost its gloss: we know ladies who remained prisoners until eight o'clock in the morning waiting for their pelisses in the robing-room. The Emperor loudly expressed his displeasure at this want of foresight in his *Préfet*.

Ball dresses are nearly all double-skirted, with two lace flounces; but a graceful novelty, worthy of notice, was a skirt made with bands of rose velvet, *épinglé*, five inches wide, and separated by a band of the same width, puffed up with rose tulle, and so on; the whole skirt was made in this manner, the corsage being alternated in the same way with trimmings of white blonde for the berthe and around the sleeves. A charming toilet at one of the recent balls was a velvet robe *épinglé*, yellow, with three flounces, covered with white English lace; the upper part of the flounces bore a raised plait of black lace one inch high: on each side of the skirt, and forming a sort of apron, was, on the upper part of each flounce, a black velvet bow, the ends of which hung down to the next flounce; the corsage was made to match these three shades—the lace, the black velvet, and the *épinglé* velvet of the robe. Another charming toilet was composed of bands of white moire and bands of rose velvet. The bands of velvet were attached to those of moire by a garland of pinks worked in silk, half white, half rose; the white part upon the rose ground, and the rose part upon the white ground. Taffetas is always in fashion, and mostly covered with lace. Such are the most remarkable toilettes, and their adoption remains with London.

There is nothing new in walking dresses, unless it be that the Scotch plaid has given place to bands of alternating shades, and even materials. Thus, we see dresses of bands of velvet, reps, satin, and *gros de tours* in



PARIS FASHIONS FOR MARCH.

the same fabric. The success in this material of weaving will figure at the approaching Exhibition. The bands are of different widths, according to the figure. This pattern is advantageous for the skirts; but the large stripe does not become the corsage.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

White Robe of India Muslin, with two skirts joined to a large surlet at the bottom, of the same material, or of gold or silver. The trimmings of the corsage is of Mechlin lace, forming a berthe.

Head-dress of White Azaleas: Upon the front of the head is a low diadem, with diamonds placed upon a circle, which loses itself in the bands of the hair.

Toilette of Rose Taffetas, with a skirt of two *volants d'Angleterre*, with a berthe at the corsage of the same. *Bouquet of natural flowers—roses*

in the fourth quarter, called the Hradchin (pronounced Radshin), is built on the Schlossberg, or Palace Hill. The Artist who has favoured us with the accompanying View of the fine old Place from a recent sketch, describes the Hradchin, the capital of Prague, the Kremlin of Bohemia, as a singular agglomeration of buildings of different dates and styles of architecture. Within its precincts it contains a cathedral, a religious establishment, and vast Palaces belonging to the Emperor and to other noble families; besides a treasure-house stored with far-sought reliques, prisons, dungeons, torture-chambers; and a pious foundation somewhat akin to that of the Military Knights of Windsor, but with this difference, that its objects are not Knights, but Dames, generally reduced members of the nobility. A lower ward contains some ordinary dwelling-houses and barracks for the garrison.

That side of the citadel which faces the old town, and contains the

and white camellias. Head-dress of similar flowers, placed very low at the back of the hair, disappearing on each side in a bandeau of puffs.

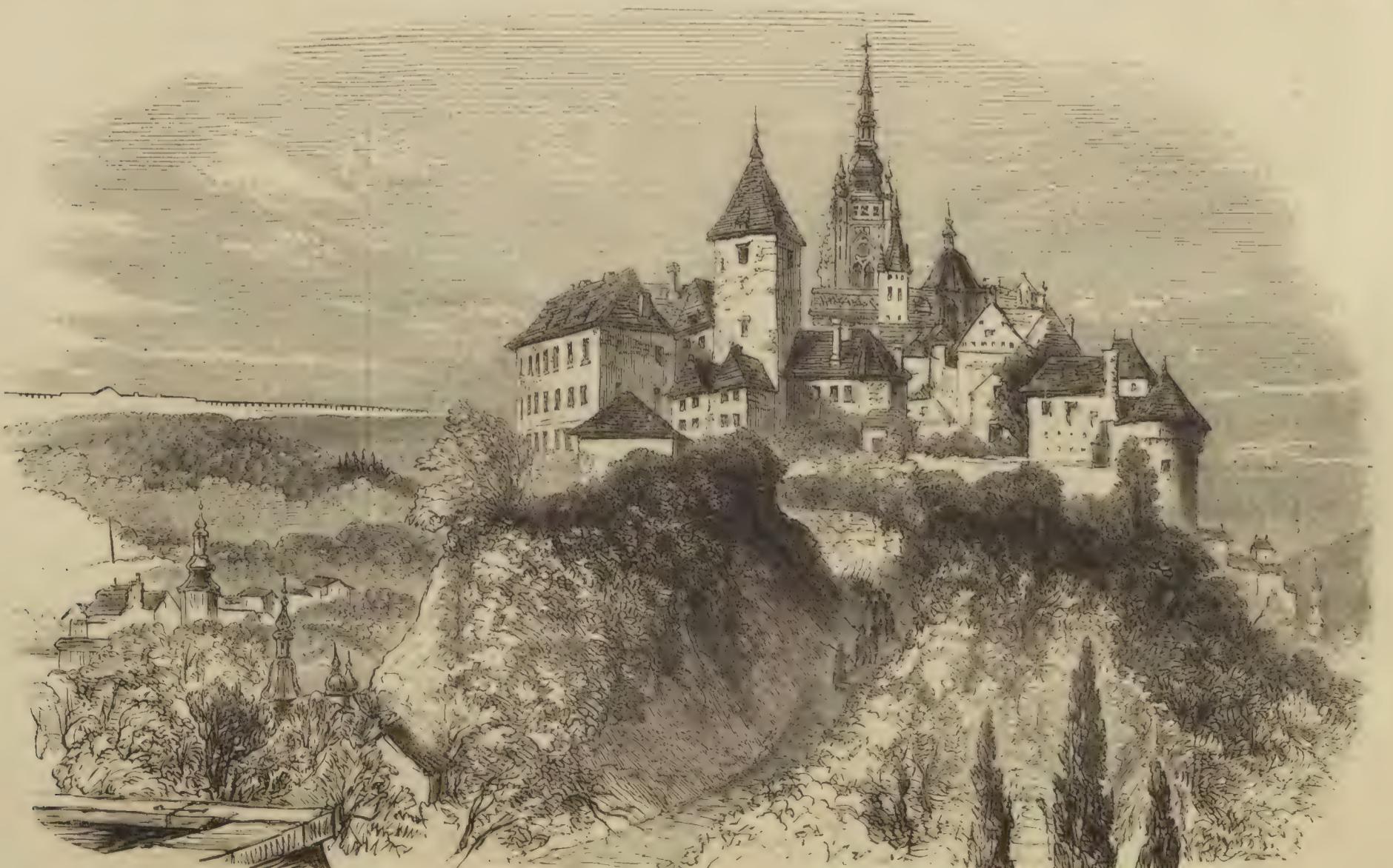
Robe en Moiré Antique en Bleu Celadon, covered with two lace ounces; corsage with berthe of Mechlin. Head-dress *en folie avoine*, or *en herbes d'eau vive*, with the ends hanging on the shoulders.

The Girl's Dress is a *Taffetas Skirt*, white ground, with two stripes *à la Pompadour*; the first skirt ending in a ruche *à la veille*, made of the same stuff; the second skirt of plain white taffetas, and hanging about two inches below the first skirt, and showing the scallops of a petticoat *en percale*, worked *à l'Anglaise*. A rose ribbon passes over the head, and loses itself in the bandeau behind, and comes, after having made a large bow, over the comb, to fall in long ends upon the shoulders.

THE IMPERIAL
PALACE
AT PRAGUE.

By a telegraphic despatch received from Vienna on the 20th ult., we learn that since an early hour in the morning of that day, the Imperial Palace on the Hradchin, at Prague, had been burning. It was the residence of the ex-Emperor and Empress Maria-Anna, who, the account adds, were in safety. The reigning Emperor, on the news of the conflagration being received at Vienna, immediately sent Prince Charles Lichtenstein, the Lord High Steward, to their Majesties.

The Palace, situated



Imperial Palace, is very unattractive;—the whitewashed walls, and total want of architectural embellishment, destroy all the advantages of its lofty position, and are extremely disappointing to an artist's eye. But when, after winding round its base, and rising towards the fortified lines which defend the north-east side of the town, he loses sight of these modern excrescences, and sees nothing less picturesque than the unsymmetrical roofs, towers, and spires of the lower ward; he may carry his imagination to the time when blind old Zizka, the Bohemian General, encamped his forces on that distant hill, where the eye can still trace his encircled wall, and ultimately defeated the Imperial army. The beleaguered city lies in the intervening valley between the Hradschin and the Zizkaberg, still pointing upwards many Kremlised cupolas and many-pointed towers, which survived those religious feuds, and cast their quaint medieval outlines over the waters of the Moldau. The grand, deserted Palace of Wallenstein, sheltered almost under the shadow of the Hradschin, recalls another period of Bohemia's glory. Each pinnacle and spire tells some tale of departed grandeur. Even that leaden spire of the cathedral only replaces a more ancient one, which, previous to its destruction by fire in 1541, surpassed in height that of Strasburg itself. Besieged and held in turns by Hussites and Catholics, Swedes, Poles, Prussians, French, Bavarians, and Austrians, its greatest wonder may perhaps be that it should still exhibit any part of the original fortress. In our days it has afforded a retreat to Charles X. of France, and to the Count de Chambord; more recently it has been the residence of the Emperor Ferdinand since his abdication. The recent fire, which brings this palace more especially under our notice at the present moment, is stated in the latest news to have originated in that part of the castle inhabited by the Imperial and Royal family, and has totally destroyed the apartments of the ex-Empress.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

After a dreary Lapland-like existence, which even skates and sleighs could do very little towards sweetening, the steeple and flat-race jockeys are again commencing to "take silk," and the huntsman's cheery shout is heard in the cover-ridings. Notwithstanding a series of postponements, in which even Liverpool had to participate, the road seems at last pretty clear for the spring and steeplechase meetings. Wolverhampton claims "the first favourable Monday," and Coventry and Chipping-Norton, both with good lists, are settled for Tuesday. Nottingham spring stands for Wednesday and Thursday; Moreton-in-the-Marsh, for Thursday; and Waltham Abbey, for Friday. Westbury is not fixed, to our knowledge, and Lincoln seems to be lost sight of for the present. The amateur handicapping there gave great offence to the sporting world, but confidence has been restored by the announcement that Mr. Richard Johnson's invaluable services are once more to be secured. The Craven handicap at Coventry will be the great steeplechase of the week: Bourton, 12 st. 5 lbs., heads the list, and out of twenty-one subscribers only one has declared! This is a good handicap omen for Mr. Merry.

Coursing secretaries have hardly had time to retix their meetings; but, as at present arranged, Sundorne (Salop) has one on Tuesday and Wednesday; Border (Roxburghshire) and Spiddal (Meath), on Wednesday and Thursday; Illdgway, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; Chartley (open), on Thursday; Baldock (Club), on Wednesday and Friday; and Hewell (Worcestershire) and Ashton (Cheshire), on Friday. The Biggar meeting will come off on March 20th, &c., and the Great Champion Cup will be contested between thirty-two Scotch and thirty-two English or Irish dogs, the winner to receive £300, the runner up £100, and so on.

Wild-fowl shooters have been remarkably successful, and one of them lately bagged forty-two wild geese at a shot on the shores of the Solent, and forty-seven widgeon at another. The birds are generally so voraciously hungry, on alighting after their long flight, that the disciples of Peter Hawker can stalk up to them, and make fearful slaughter with the first two or three shots. An enormous swan has also formed part of the unusually rich booty, besides bean goose, cider duck, &c., and almost every other kind of wading bird, which invariably migrate southward in a severe winter. *Apropos* of shooting, we may mention that Manchester claims to have the pigeon-shooting as well as the billiard champion, seeing that one of her townsmen, Mr. E. Wood, has challenged the whole world to shoot at pigeons for anything between £100 and £500 a side, the gun to be held below the elbow or in any way most convenient. The number of birds and the weight of shot is not yet agreed upon, and it is equally uncertain who will take up the glove. If some of the London crack-shots do not do so, their spirit must have sadly degenerated since the days when Messrs. Bloodsworth and Groom were at their zenith, and when the gun-barrels of Colonel Anson, Captain Ross, and Mr. Osbaldeston were never suffered to cool. So great was the prowess of the latter gentleman among the Hamburg blue-rocks at the Red-house, thirty years ago, that when Mr. Warde proposed his health at Mr. Tattersall's table, he remarked that Mr. Osbaldeston "has been instrumental in depriving Mrs. Warde and myself of pigeon pies for the remainder of our natural lives."

The Tattersall lounger has not had much to gladden his eyes in the way of sales this year. St. Hilary, Hatbox, Cervus, and several other steeplechasers and hunters, are to be sold on Monday; and on that day fortnight Count Bathany's racing stud of ten, and the late Sir M. H. Beach's kennel of fifteen pointers, two setters, and four retrievers, will come to the hammer. Three packs of foxhounds and one of beagles, besides two saplings by Bedlam (who is producing his owner between £200 and £300 annually), as well as Ephesus and Guy Manning, are also in the market.

A brother to Weatherage is among the latest foal arrivals, and Lady Wildair and Rebecca are at the quarters of Sweetmeat, who is rising to the very first rank among sires, though his fee is only one-fifth of Bay Middleton's, Birdcatcher's, and Melbourne's. Pocahontas is expected to foal to Nutwith, and Miss Bowe (who has been rather unlucky of late) to Joe Lovell, a son of John Scott's old mare Cyprian and Velocipede. Mountain Deer is now in Ireland, and the stud rival of Crosier, who is a far greater favourite there than his half-brothers Surplice and Cowl are in England. No less than six horses (most of them very bad) out of Crucifix are now at the stud, and a writer pithily observes respecting Touchstone, that "the great difficulty now is not to get Touchstone blood, but to get away from it." Three of the highest crosses of the last season were those of Teddington and Maid of Masham, Canezou and Longbow, and Princess and Birdcatcher; and their coming produces are engaged in the 1000 guineas each Black Duck Stakes, at York, in 1857.

Only nine Newmarket matches have as yet been made for the ensuing racing season, and ten for 1856-57—in nearly all of which the Earl of Glasgow takes part. Doncaster has put forth a very noble autumn broadsheet, which comprises 28 events and £1775 of added money. The principal feature in this amended list is the Portland Handicap Plate of 200 sovereigns, for all ages; but the new conditions of the Cup are not yet fixed on. The town gives in all about £2215 of added money to its flat races, besides £125 to steeplechases; whereas seven years ago it only gave £1000. Nothing but a potent fear of York could have effected so great a change.

A number of trees near the principal entrance of the Palais de l'Industrie, in the Champs Elysées, are being cut down, in order to afford a better view of the edifice, and at other parts of the building trees are to be cut down for the same purpose. Some of the trees are very large, and date from 1770, when the plantation of the Champs Elysées, which was commenced by Catherine de Medicis in 1616, and completed in 1670, was renewed.

CONDUCT OF THE WAR.—A public meeting of the working classes of Nottingham was held on Tuesday evening, in the Assembly Rooms, Nottingham. Resolutions urging the Government to pursue an inquiry into the cause of the disastrous state of the army, &c., were adopted.—A crowded meeting was held at Preston, on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of "denouncing the gross mismanagement which has been displayed in connection with the war, and demanding a searching revision of our military system, and an inquiry into the causes of the decimation of one of the finest armies that ever left England." The chair was taken by Mr. W. Livesey. The speeches and resolutions were of a vigorous character, and a petition to Parliament was adopted praying for an effective prosecution of the war, and a complete reform in our military system.

PRUSSIAN FRIENDS OF THE CZAR.—A little farce, entitled "The Fighters of Berlin; or, an English Recruiting-office for the Crimea"—a so-called parody on "The Fighter of Ravenna"—draws crowds to one of the minor theatres in Berlin. The wagery of the piece turns upon a "revelant arabica" agent being mistaken for an English recruiting "Mi Lör," represented by a thick individual, swearing "God dam," murdering English as the Russians did at Inkerman, and deeming it necessary to further prove his nationality by going through the process of shaving, and by wearing a dingy dressing-gown and cap. The names of "Pallmarestong," "Vestmoldant," and "Plomfieft," are tossed up and down like pancakes, to the great delight of the audience; and *Punch's* sketch of the anticipated recruits is embodied to the life in a razzed set of *virtues* as could well be brought upon any stage. There were one or two hits also at Austria, who is described by the grammarians as playing the part of the "vocative case." But the grand *coup* of the piece is the performance, by Mr. Knack, of all possible beats, rolls, and taps of the drum, on a platform, as an accompaniment to the Prussian national air, supposed to be played whilst "Menschikoff" joyfully breakfasts during a defeat of the Allies.—*Letter from Berlin.*

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

We have again to report a very limited business in the Market for all Nations. Securities. In prices, however, there has been some firmness, but it may be almost wholly traced to the unusually small quantity of stock on offer. For many weeks past the jobbers have had little, or nothing, to do, and they are extremely anxious to ascertain whether the new Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to apply to the City for a loan. Amongst numerous parties it would be favourably received, and we need scarcely say that almost any amount might be raised in the present state of the market, and without causing a serious fall in the value of present stocks.

The Money Market is somewhat tighter, from the fact that heavy demands have been made upon it to meet bills due on the 4th current. Bankers have discounted liberally, and with a good profit. At present the discount quotations for first-class bills are 5 to 5½ for short dates, and 5½ per cent for long dates. The rate of interest allowed for deposits of money on call is 4 to 4½ per cent. As remittances are now rapidly arriving from most quarters, the present pressure will be of very short duration.

The imports of the precious metals this week have exceeded one million sterling—£200,000 from Australia, and £300,000 from other quarters, chiefly from New York. The exports have been under £100,000; and, from the fact that foreign exchanges have become somewhat favourable to this country, it is supposed that nearly the whole of the next arrivals will be forwarded to the Bank of England.

The Consul Market was flat on Monday; but its inactivity did not lead to any material change in price. The Three per Cents Reduced were done at 91½; the Three per Cent Consols, 91½ to 91; Consols for Account, 91½; the New Three per Cents, 91½ to 91; Long Annuities, 7-10; Bank Stock, 215; Exchequer-bills, 6s. to 9s.; Ditto, Advertised, 6s. to 9s. prem.; Exchequer-bonds, 99½. On Tuesday the Market was again flat. The Three per Cents Reduced marked 91½ to 91½; the Three per Cent Consols, 91½ to 91½; Consols for Account, 91½; New Three per Cents, 91½ to 91; Long Annuities, 1860, 42½; Bank Stock, 215 to 213½; India Bonds, 11s. to 12s.; Exchequer-bills, 9s. to 6s. prem.; Exchequer-bonds, 99½. A very limited business was transacted on Wednesday. Bank Stock, 215 to 213½. The Three per Cents Reduced were 91½ to 91½; the Three per Cent Consols, 91½ to 91½; Consols for Account, 91½; New Three per Cents, 91½ to 91; Long Annuities, 1860, 4-16; India Stock, 22½; Exchequer-bills, 6s. to 9s. premium; Exchequer-bonds, 99½. There was more doing in Consols on Thursday, and prices were on the advance. The Three per Cents were 91½ to 91½; the New Three per Cents, 91½ to 92; and the Reduced, 91½ to 91½. Exchequer-bills, 6s. to 9s.; and India Bonds, 19s. to 14s. prem.

The dealings in the Foreign House have been extremely restricted, yet we have scarcely any change to notice in the quotations. Brazilian Four-and-a-Half per Cents have realized 91½; Ecuador Bonds, 3½; Grenada One-and-a-Half per Cents, 15½; Mexican Three per Cents, 91½; Peruvian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 73; Ditto, Three per Cents, 50; Russian Five per Cents, 19½; Ditto, Small, 87½; Sardinian Five per Cents, 85; Spanish Three per Cents, 36; Ditto, New Deferred, 17½; Turkish Six per Cents, 75½; Belgian Four-and-a-Half per Cents, 93½; Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 61½; Dutch Four per Cents, 90½; Swedish Four per Cents, 92½; Portuguese Four per Cents, 41½.

There has been a fair money business transacted in Joint-Stock Banks, the prices of which have kept tolerably firm:—Australia have realized 8½; Chartered of Asia, ½; English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered, 15½; London Chartered of Australia, 20½; Ditto, New, 4½; London and County, 37; New South Wales, 34½; Union of Australia, 64½; Union of London, 26; Miscellaneous Securities have continued dull:—Australian Royal Mail, 4; Canada Bonds, 11½; Ditto, Government Six per Cents, 107½; Crystal Palace, 2½; Ditto, Preference, 3½; East and West India Docks, 11½; London, 100½; Victoria, 15½; Peel River Land and Mineral, 2½; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 5½; Royal Mail Steam, 65; Scottish Australian Investment, New, ½; Van Diemen's Land, 12½. Canal Shares have sold heavily, but without any change of moment in the quotations:—Ashton and Oldham, 13½ ex div.; Birmingham, 9½ ex div.; Coventry, 20½; Derby, 8½; Grand Junction, 55; Grand Surrey, 4½; Leicester, 59; Loughborough, 57½; Neath, 150; Oxford, 110; Rochdale, 60; Stafford and Worcester, 42½; Stourbridge, 22½; Worcester and Birmingham, 23 to 21. Water-works Shares have marked the following rates:—Berlin, 2½; Grand Junction, 66 to 68 ex div.; Ditto New, 21 ex div.; Kent, 78½; Southwark and Vauxhall, 20½; New River Company, 55; West Middlesex, 94½ to 95 ex div. In Gas-light and Coke Companies Securities very few transactions have taken place:—British Provincial, 20; Brighton, 14; Continental, 58½ ex div.; Equitable, 23½; Imperial, 49 ex div.; Ditto, New, 15 ex div.; Phoenix, 27½ ex div.; Ratcliff, 70; Surrey Consumers, 11; United General, 19½; Westminster Chartered, 39. Insurance Companies Shares have ruled steady:—City of London, 2½; General, 5½; Globe, 12½; Guardian, 55; Imperial Fire, 32½ ex div.; Ditto, Life, 18; Law Fire, 4½; Ditto, Life, 56; Pelican, 46 to 45; Rock Life, 7½; Sun Life, 57½; United Kingdom, 4½ ex div. Bridge Shares have ruled:—Hungerford at 12½; Vauxhall, 23; Waterloo, 4½; Ditto, Old Annuities of £8, 31; Ditto, New, of £7, 28.

The Account day in the Share Market has passed off tolerably well. The money business has been trifling. For the present month the "calls" are only £250,673, against £719,880 for the corresponding month in 1854. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.—Caledonian, 62½; Eastern Counties, 11 ex div.; Eastern Union, A Stock, 30; Great Northern, 90; Ditto, A Stock, 7½; Ditto, B Stock, 126½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland) 89 ex div.; Great Western, 63½ ex div.; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 7½; London and Blackwall, 7½ ex div.; London and Brighton, 9½; London and North-Western, 7½ ex div.; Ditto, Fifths, 15½ ex div.; Ditto, £10 shares, M and B C, 5½ ex div.; London and South-Western, 8½ ex div.; Ditto, £50, 34½ ex div.; Midland, 67½ ex div.; Newport, Abergavenny, and Hereford, 11½; North British, 23½; North-Eastern—Berwick, 7½; Ditto Leeds, 12½ ex div.; North Staffordshire, 12½; South Devon, 13; South-Eastern, 50½.

LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.—London and Greenwich, 12½.

PREFERENCE SHARES.—Eastern Counties New Six per Cent Stock, 12½ ex div.; Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee, Four per Cent, 63; Great Northern Five per Cent, 116½; Ditto, Four-and-a-Half per Cent, 103; North Staffordshire, 22; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Six per Cent, 109½ ex div.

FOREIGN.—Eastern of France, 32½; East India Five per Cent, 21½; Great Luxembourg, 2½; Ditto, Obligations, 2½; Great Western of Canada Shares, 17; Namur and Liege, ex int., 5.

Mining Shares have been dull. On Thursday, *Aqua Fria* were done at ½; *Copiago*, 18; *Fortuna*, ½; *Pontgibaud* Silver Lead, 15½; *Weller*, ½.

THE MARKETS.

CORN-EXCHANGE. Feb. 26.—Scarcely any wheat was on sale to-day from Essex, but several parcels came fresh from Kent. The former sold slowly, at about stationary prices; but the latter gave way from 1s. to 2s. per quarter, with a very dull inquiry. All kinds of foreign wheat were on offer, but little sale. The show of barley was small; yet the inquiry for all kinds was in a sluggish state, on former terms. In maize no actual change took place, yet prices rather favoured buyers. Oats were dull, but not cheaper. Beans took place, and flour moved off slowly, at last week's currency.

Feb. 26.—A very limited amount of business was transacted in all grain to-day. Prices ruled the same as on Monday.

1. English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent red, 62s. to 70s.; ditto, white, 68s. to 84s.; Norfolk and Suffolk red, 66s. to 74s.; ditto, white, 72s. to 78s.; rye, 42s. to 44s.; grinding barley, 28s. to 31s.; distilling, 29s. to 32s.; malting, 32s. to 36s.; Lincoln and Norfolk malt, 6s. to 6s.; brown ditto, 6½s. to 6½s.; Kingston and Ware, 6s. to 70s.; Chevalier, 71s. to 74s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 28s. to 29s.; potato, 29s. to 21s.; Youzh and Cork, black, 22s. to 25s.; ditto, white, 27s. to 28s.; tick beans, 40s. to 42s.; grey peas, 33s. to 37s.; maple, 39s. to 42s.; ditto, white, 37s. to 43s.; boilers, 42s. to 44s. per quarter. Town-maize flour, 65s. to 73s.; Suffolk, 56s. to 60s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 52s. to 57s. per 280lbs. American 33s. to 41s. per barrel.

2. Seeds.—The demand for all kinds of seed is in a very inactive state. In prices no change has taken place.

3. Linseed.—English, sowing, 72s. to 75s.; Baltic, crushing, 3s. to 4s.; Mediterranean and Oceania, 60s. to 70s.; Hemp, 50s. to 55s.; per quarter. Coriander, 17s. to 18s. per cwt. Brown Mustard, 12s. to 14s.; white ditto, 8s. to 10s. Tares, 11s. to 12s. per bushel. English rapeseed, 42s. to 43s. per bushel of ten quarters. Linseed Cakes, English, 41s. to 43s.; ditto, foreign, 10s. to 12s. per ton; rape cakes, 26s. to 28s. per ton. Canary, 41s. to 44s. per barrel.

4. Tra.—Our market continues very dull, yet we have no actual decline to notice in prices.

5. Sugar.—A very inactive market, with no change in price. For all kinds of raw sugar this week, and former prices have been maintained. The market has been dull, with a very dull inquiry. All kinds of foreign sugar have been on offer, but little sale. The show of barley was small; yet the inquiry for all kinds was in a sluggish state, on former terms.

6. Flour.—The transactions are limited, and the quotations are rather easier. P. Y. C., on the spot, 5s. 2d. to 5s. 6d.; March and April, 5s.; April and May, 5s. to 5s. 3d. per cwt. Town flour, 51s. to 52s. per cwt.

7. Oils.—Linseed oil is steady, on the spot. Palo rape is dull, at 5s. 6d.; Brown olive, 52s. to 55s. 6d.; Haswell, 23s. 6d.; Hilton, 23s. 6d.; Stewart's, 23s. 6d.; Heugh Hall, 21s.; South Kelloe, 21s. per ton.

8. Hay and Straw.—Meadow hay, 42½ lbs. to 44½ lbs.; clover ditto, £3 to £5; and straw, £1 4s. to £1 10s. per load.

9. Hops.—The demand for nearly all kinds of hops is heavy, yet last week's prices are supported. From abroad about 200 bales have arrived this week.

10. Coal.—The public sales are going off steadily, though at a decline, compared with the previous week, of from 1d. to 1d. per lb. The private market is excessively dull.

11. Potash.—The supplies are moderate, but fully equal to the demand. Prices rule from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per ton.

12. Tallow.—The transactions are limited, and the quotations are rather easier. P. Y. C., on the spot, 5s. 2d. to 5s. 6d.; March and April, 5s.; April and May, 5s. to 5s. 3d. per cwt. Town tallow, 51s. not cash. Rough fat, 3s. per 8 lbs.

13. Oils.—Linseed oil is steady, on the spot. Palo rape is dull, at 5s. 6d.; Brown olive, 52s. to 55s. 6d.; Haswell, 23s. 6d.; Hilton, 23s. 6d.; Stewart's, 23s. 6d.; Heugh Hall, 21s.; South Kelloe, 21s. per ton.

14. Hay.—To 41 lbs. per load.

15. Hops.—The demand for nearly all kinds of hops is heavy, yet last week's prices are supported. From abroad about 200 bales have arrived this week.

16. Coal.—The public sales are going off steadily, though at a decline, compared with the previous week, of from 1d. to 1d. per lb. The private market is excessively dull.

17. Potash.—The supplies are moderate, but fully equal to the demand. Prices rule from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per ton.

18. Tallow.—The transactions are limited, and the quotations are rather easier. P. Y. C., on the spot, 5s. 2d. to 5s. 6d.; March and April, 5s.; April and May, 5s. to 5s. 3d. per cwt. Town tallow, 51s. not cash. Rough fat, 3s. per 8 lbs.

19. Oils.—Linseed oil is steady, on the spot. Palo rape is dull, at 5s. 6

AMUSEMENTS, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—The SPANISH DANCERS (Cigarras Pura Negra and Mata de Daza, with New Bellairs and Company, Every Evening—Monday and Tuesday, a Comedy, Wednesday, a New Comedy, and the Spanish Agent). And Every Evening, The BALANCE OF COMFORT.

ROYAL PRINCESS' THEATRE.—Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, LOUIS XI.; Wednesday, CORSICAN BROTHERS and (last time) the PANTOMIME; Saturday, LANCERS, and other Entertainments.

CREAT NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Shore-ditch.—Proprietor, Mr. JOHN DOUGLASS. This magnificent theatre, situated in splendour, is open every evening. Engagement of MESSRS. GLYN, the popular Shakspelian actors, who will appear in CLEOPATRA, on SATURDAY, MARCH 31st. Antony, by Mr. Henry Marston, of Sadler's Wells Theatre. Doors open at 6; begin at Half-past Six. Boxes, 2s. 6d., 2s., 1s. 6d., and 1s.

CO and hear LOVE, the greatest DRAMATIC VENTRILLOQUIST in Europe, at the UPPER HALL, REGENT GALLERY, 69, Quadrant, Regent-street.—Every Evening, at Eight, except Saturday; Saturday, at Three. Piano-forte, Miss Julia Warman.

J. L. TOOLE (late of St. James's Theatre) will present his SKETCHES OF LIFE and TOUCHES AT THE TIMES—Fascinating, Conversational, Impersonal, Illustrative, Historical, and Vocal, in the Library Room of the West-end Library Institution, in the Library Hall, Carlton-street, Walbrook, on MONDAY, at Eight. Tickets, 1s., 2s., and 3s., at James's Royal Library; the Library Tavern at the Head of the Strand.

J. S. NOLDWHITE, Hon. Sec.

MR. ALFRED MELLON respectfully announces that a series of grand ORCHESTRAL UNION CONCERTS, under his direction, will take place during the season at ST. MARTIN'S HALL. The first on MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 2nd, 1855. Subscribers' names received by Messrs. Cramer and Beale, 201, Regent-street.

ANNUAL BENEFIT BALL, at Dean-street, soho.—Mr. CALDWELL has the honour to announce that the FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BENEFIT BALL will take place on TUESDAY, MARCH 6, on which evening no exertion will be left to render this the most pleasant and deserving of the season. Tickets, including Supper, 5s. each. SOIREE DANSANTES every Evening from Eight till Twelve. Six Private Lessons, at any hour, £1 1s.

NOTICE. ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—An important LECTURE on SIEGE OPERATIONS in connection with SEBASTOPOL, by E. JEKYLL, Esq. (late Captain, Grenadier Guards), illustrated by Models and Diagrams of Fortifications, Cannon, &c. On Monday Evening the 5th and Tuesday Evening the 6th inst, at Eight o'clock.

CRYSTAL PALACE, Sydenham.—The PALACE and PARK are OPEN to the Public on MONDAYS, at 9 a.m.; on TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS, and FRIDAYS, at 10 a.m.; on which days the admission is 1s.; and on SATURDAYS, at Noon, when the admission is 5s., and 1s. 6d. at 5 p.m. Tickets of admission, including conveyance by railway, may be obtained at the London-brIDGE TERMINUS, and at TUESDAY Agents' in London. Trains run at 8.30 a.m., at 9.10 a.m., and every half-hour from 10 to 10 a.m. up to 4.10 p.m.; returning from the Crystal Palace station up to 6.10 p.m.

ART UNION of LONDON.—By ROYAL CHARTER. Proprietors select for themselves from the public Exhibitions. Every Subscriber of One Guinea will have, besides the chance of a prize, an impression of a plate of "A Water Party," by J. T. Willmore, A.R.A., after J. J. Chalon, R.A., and a quarto volume of thirty illustrations of Byron's "Child Harold." The prints are ready for delivery, and the volume may be seen at the office. Subscription closes 31st instant.

444, West Strand, GEORGE GODWIN, } Honorary LEWIS POCOCK, } Secretaries.

INSTRUCTION in ART GENERAL and PRACTICAL, as applied to the various Sciences of Science and Art, Marlborough House, Pall-mall; the School for Female Students, No. 37, Gower-street, and the District Schools in connection with the department. The Spring Session will commence on the 1st March.

For information and prospectuses, apply at Marlborough House, Pall-mall.

LECTURES to WORKING MEN.—The following COURSES of LECTURES will be delivered in the EVENINGS during the present session in the THEATRE of the MUSEUM of POLITICAL GEOLOGY, Jermyn-street.

1. GEOLOGY, by A. C. RAMSEY, F.R.S.

2. ON MECHANICAL POWER, by WILLIS, M.A., F.R.S.

3. ON NATURAL HISTORY, by T. H. HUXLEY, F.R.S.

The First Course of Six Lectures on the Geology of the British Rocks used in the Arts and Manufactures commenced at Eight o'clock on MONDAY, the 23rd of JANUARY, and will be continued on each succeeding Monday Evening at the same hour.

The Second Course, on Mechanism, by Professor Willis, will be commenced after the conclusion of the first.

Tickets are obtainable, by working men only, upon payment of a registration fee of 6d. for the course of Six Lectures; and due notice will be given of the day on which they are issued.

THRENTHAM REEKS, Registrar.

SUFFOLK.—To LET, within a few miles of Bury St. Edmunds, a compact FAMILY RESIDENCE, in good repair, with nine acres of grass land. Rent moderate.—Address, post paid, M.S., care of Mr. George Thompson, Bury St. Edmunds.

A CAMBRIDGE UNDERGRADUATE is open to an engagement as travelling TUTOR in a Nobleman's or Gentleman's family during the months of June, July, August, and September. Address W. J. S., care of Delighton, Bell, and Co., Booksellers, Trinity-street, Cambridge.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—Wanted a respectable Youth, Fifteen Years of age, as an APPRENTICE to the ORGAN-BUILDING BUSINESS, to be treated as one of the family. A premium is expected. Apply to Wm. Pitcher's Manufactory, 23, Upper Belgrave-place, Pimlico, London.—Established thirty years.

TO PARENTS and GUARDIANS.—There is an OPPORTUNITY of placing a well-educated Youth as an APPRENTICE in the establishment of a firm of extensive practice, carrying on the PROFESSIONS of Auctioneers, Architects, Surveyors, Valuers, Land and Estate Agents. Premium required.—Apply to Messrs. Mansell and Elliott, Auctioneers and Surveyors, 13a, Belgrave-square, or 12, Birch-lane, Cornhill.

HOME EDUCATION.—A Clergyman and his wife, residing in a healthy part of Berkshire, and fully competent to the care and management of children, wish to receive into their family TWO or THREE LITTLE GIRLS, who will be treated as their own and thoroughly instructed in all the branches of a sound English Education, with Music, French, and Drawing, as also Latin and German if required. Terms on application to the Rev. R. Hope Hooper, M.A., Farningdon, Berks. The highest references given and required.

NAVIGATION.—Mrs. JANET TAYLOR'S NAUTICAL ACADEMY, 101, Minories, offers superior advantages to Young Gentlemen preparing for the Sea. References can be given to all the large Steam Companies, and all the leading Shipping owners in London. Terms moderate, and forwarded on application.

THE LONDON SCHOOL of PHOTOGRAPHY, 78, Newgate-street.—The Art of Taking Portraits may be learned in One Lesson, and the necessary Apparatus purchased for £5. No charge is made for the Instruction. Portraits from 1s. to £1 1s. Number 78.

DIATONIC FLUTE.—By Royal Letters Patent.—This instrument is played by Mr. Richardson, flautist to Her Majesty, and other eminent Professors. Full particulars forwarded.—Manufactury, 125, Fleet-street. A SICCUA, Patentee.

THE only PRIZE FLUTES.—These beautiful flutes, which may be seen and heard daily from twelve to two at the Patentee's Manufactury, RUDALL, ROSE, CALLI, and CO., 1, New Bond-street, where Mr. Carter will be in his large Room, show great excellencies. Every kind of Flute up to the new and various Carter's Sketch, price 1s. by post 1s. 6d., gives a full description. Manufactury, 23, Charing-cross.

PIANOFORTEs, Twenty-five Guineas each.—D'ALMAINE and CO.'S Unique Royal Pianoforте, in Rose-wood and Mahogany (comps, 63 octaves). Distinuished by purity and volume of tone, and elegance of appearance; recommended and used by the most eminent musicians, and suited for home use or for exhibition. Every instrument warranted.—D'ALMAINE and CO., 23, Rose-square, established 1785.

TOLKIEN'S 25-GUINEA Royal MINUTOPIANOFORTE.—H. T., the original maker of a 25-Guinea Pianoforте, has devoted to its branches of the business, obtained the highest reputation throughout the universe for his instruments, unequalled in durability and delicacy of touch, more especially for their excellency in standing in tune in the various climates of our colonies. In elegant walnut, rosewood, and mahogany. Cases packed for abroad for £2 10s. extra.—H. Tolkiens' Manufactury, 27, 28, and 29, King William-street, London-brIDGE.

THE BANK OF LONDON.

Capital, £900,000.

(With power of extension to £2,000,000.)
In 6000 Shares of £100 each, £50 payable per Share, £10 upon allotment, and the remainder before or upon Incorporation in pursuance of the Provisions of the Statute for Regulating Joint Stock Banks.

BOARD of DIRECTORS.

Chairman, Sir JOHN VILLIERS SHELLY, Bart., M.P., 25, Park-lane, and Marefield-park, Sussex.

VICE-CHAIRMAN.

(To be appointed by and from the Directors.)

John Edmund Anderson, Esq., 10, Devonshire-terrace, Hyde-park; Thomas Gooch, Esq. (Gooch and Co., London-wall), Brixton-ridge; Jeremiah Greatorex, Esq. (Bradbury, Greatorex, and Co., Aldermanbury); Springhill House, Upper Clapton.

Alexander Constantine Ioniades, Esq., Consul-General of Greece (firm of Ioniades, Souto, and Co.), 17, Gracechurch-street.

Charles Joyce, Esq. (firm of Charles Joyce and Co., Moorgate-street), Gloucester-gardens, Hyde-park.

Henry Morris, Esq., late of the Madras Civil Service, 25, Marl-lane, City.

Henry Muggeridge, Esq., Alderman and Sheriff of London, St. Andrew's-hill, City, and Streatham-common, Surrey.

Alfred Wilson, Esq. (Venable, Wilson, and Tyler, Queenhithe), Finsbury, Weybridge, Surrey.

(With power to add to their number, until the first General Meeting.)

MANAGER.

(The Bank Manager will not be appointed until the Directors shall have had the amplest opportunity of selecting for that important position a Gentleman of first-class qualifications.)

SECRETARY AND PROVISIONAL MANAGER.—Benjamin Scott, Esq., SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Tyrrell, Payne, and Layton, Guildhall-yard.

BROKERS.

Messrs. J. W. and S. R. Scott, 75, Old Broad-street.

AUDITORS.

(To be selected by and from the Proprietors.)

Office (temporary) 111, Moorgate-street, City.

The Bank of London has been projected for the purpose of affording increased facilities for banking in London and the Provinces, upon the joint-stock principle.

Its promoters do not contemplate the introduction of any new modes of banking. It will rather be their object to follow in the steps of those soundly-conducted and well-regulated establishments who's management has contributed to place Joint-stock Banks amongst the most popular and flourishing of metropolitan institutions. Every branch of legitimate banking business will be comprehended within the scope of its operations.

Accounts, both current and on deposit, will be received, and interest allowed.

Dividends, annuities, pay of officers (military, naval, and civil), and other sources of income, will be received for customers; purchases, sales, and transfers in the public funds and other stocks, will be effected, and circular notes of credit issued. The safe custody of title-deeds and securities belonging to customers, with the necessary access, will form a prominent feature in the arrangements of the Bank.

The promoters will justify the establishment of this Bank mainly by the following considerations. The soundness of the joint-stock principle; its adaptation to modern modes of business, the accommodation it affords, and the security which it presents, have commended the system to the judgment of the great middle class of society, whose aggregate deposits form the bulk of the floating capital lodged in the hands of the banking interest; the increasing patronage which has been consequently extended to Joint-stock Banks has led to an inconvenient augmentation of business in many of those establishments urgently demanding further banking accommodation.

The period selected for this step is particularly opportune. Trade and commerce being diverted from many ordinary channels by the untoward state of our political relations, capital naturally seeks for investment where it will be free from that depression and those fluctuations to which it is liable at such a period. The Joint-stock Banks have been rendered, accordingly, available for the safe deposit of unemployed capital, and will probably, for some time to come, continue to reap considerable advantage from this state of things; while, should peace rapidly be restored, the activity resulting from release of capital and renewed commercial enterprise, will afford a legitimate and profitable exercise for the operations of banking.

The following statement of the present market price of the leading Joint-stock Bank shares, and the Dividends upon each respectively, affords the most conclusive evidence that ample room exists for the profitable employment of capital in this branch of business:—

NAME of BANK.	Amount paid up or Share S. £.	Pr. per Share in the Market or Value of Capital in Pounds (x. d.)	Rate per cent of Divid end in Pounds
London Joint-stock	2	2 10	1 10
Union Bank of London	10	2 12	1 12
London and County	10	2 12	1 12
Commercial Bank of London	20	3 10	1 12
	20	3 10	1 12

Showing an average dividend of £14 1s. per cent per annum, after payment of Income-tax, and accumulation of large reserve funds; also an improved value upon the capital paid up of £14 10s. per cent.

As it will be to the interest of the Bank to have a numerous proprietary, applications for small allotments will receive the favourable consideration of the Directors.

Applications for Shares, addressed to the Secretary, at the office of the Company, or to the Brokers, will be received up to and including the 5th of March, 1855.

FORM of APPLICATION for SHARES.

To the Directors of the Bank of London.

Gentlemen.—I request you will allot me Shares of £100 each in the Bank of London. And I hereby undertake to accept the same, or any smaller number which you may allot to me, and to pay the deposit of £10 per share thereon, and execute the Deed of Settlement of the Company in respect thereof, at such times and in such manner as you may appoint.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

NAME: ADDRESS: TELLER: &c.

N.B.—Every application for shares must (in the case of persons not known to the Directors or Officers of the Bank) be accompanied by a good banking, commercial, or professional reference.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY (Paddington to the Post-office).—Capital, £1,000,000, in 100,000 Shares of £10 each, Deposit £1 per Share. Preliminary deposit to accompany application for Shares, £1 per share.

William Malone, Esq., Montagu-square, Chairman.

Acton S. Ayton, Esq., Graff-street, Bond-street, Deputy-Chairman.

Anthony Kington Baker, Esq., Cheltenham, Director of the Great Western Railway Company.

Samuel Baker, Esq., Thorngrove, Worcestershire, Director of the Great Western Railway Company.

Thomas Bulkeley, Esq., Clever-lodge, Windsor, Director of the Great Western Railway Company.

Thomas Edward Dwyer, Esq., Princes-terrace, Hyde-park.

Charles W. Faber, Esq., London, Director of the Great Northern Railway Company.

Henry Parry, Esq., Princes-terrace, Hyde-park.

Lizzy Simpson, Esq., Ridgeway Oaks, Enfield, Director of the Eastern Counties Railway Company.

James W. Smith, Esq., Cheltenham, St. John's-road, Director of the Gloucester and Warwickshire Railway Company.

Two seats reserved, under arrangement with the London and North-Western Railway Company, to be filled by Directors of that Company.

Established 1841.

LIFE OFFICE, 23, Pall-mall.

At the THIRTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, held on the 30th November, 1854, it was shown that there had been issued less than 2123 Policies, covering a sum of £1,272,500, and yielding Annual Premiums amounting to £50,110.

By the Annual Report for 1853 it appeared that the number of Policies then in force was 3134, insuring £1,357,500, and yielding an income of £55,207.

The Number



MEETING OF THE ROYAL COMMISSIONERS FOR THE PATRIOTIC FUND, IN THE GUARD-CHAMBER OF THE NEW PALACE, WESTMINSTER.—(SEE PAGE 206.)

RUSSIAN ARMS, &c.

DURING a recent visit of one of our Artists to Portsmouth, he sketched the accompanying group of memorials of the War, which have been brought from the battle-fields of the Alma and Inkerman.

First we have a Russian musket, with its leather covering, to keep the percussion-cap dry—a contrivance which has been, we believe, adopted in our own army. On the right is a specimen of the bread provided for the Russian soldiers: through the holes were passed the strap by which the

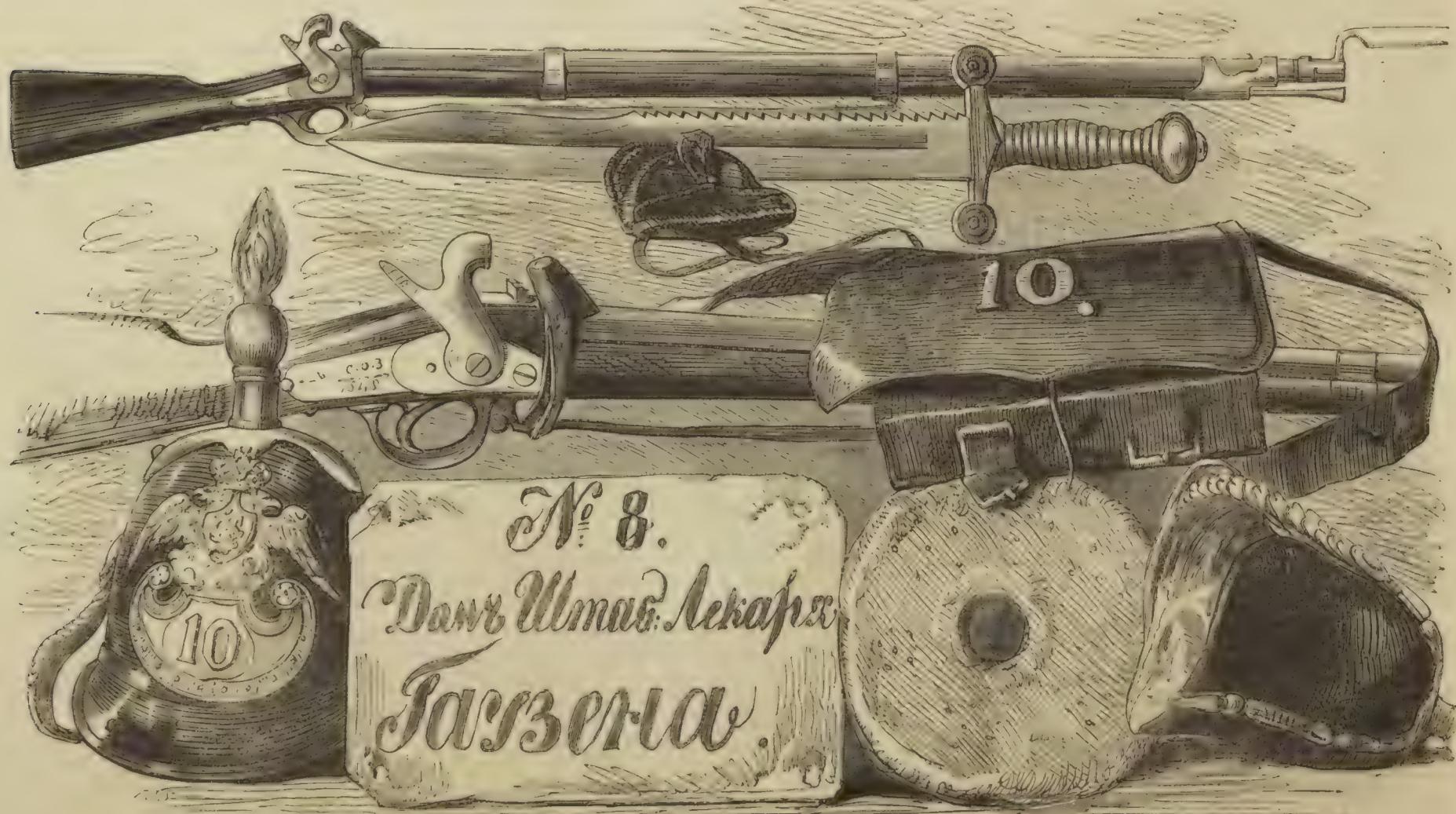
bread was fastened to the knapsack. The small tablet was taken from over the door of a village in Bomarsund; the inscription in English is, "No. 8. This house belongs to Dr. Gausen."

We have to thank Mr. Galt, of the High-street, Portsmouth, for permission to sketch the above objects, which are in his possession.

It may be interesting to add that the Armouries of the Tower of London received, some time since, the first spoils of the Russian war, in 2000 stands of arms, from Bomarsund.

Paris papers announce that a literary trophy from Bomarsund has

just been added to the Bibliothèque Impériale in that city. It is a collection of the offices of the Saints' Days of the Greek Church, for every day in the year, and is divided into twelve volumes, one for each month. As a specimen of typographical art it does no credit to Russia, though it was produced so recently as 1811. It is preceded by a permission to print, given "in the name of the Most Holy Trinity," by the "most pious" Emperor Alexander, and his "most pious" wife, and the "most orthodox" Princes of the Imperial family and their "most orthodox" wives.



RUSSIAN ARMS, ETC., FROM THE ALMA AND INKERMAN, AND BOMARSUND.



TURKISH SOLDIERS AND TARTAR CHILDREN.—PHOTOGRAPHED AT EUPATORIA.



TARTAR CHILDREN.—PHOTOGRAPHED AT EUPATORIA.

TURKISH SOLDIERS AND TARTAR CHILDREN, AT EUPATORIA.

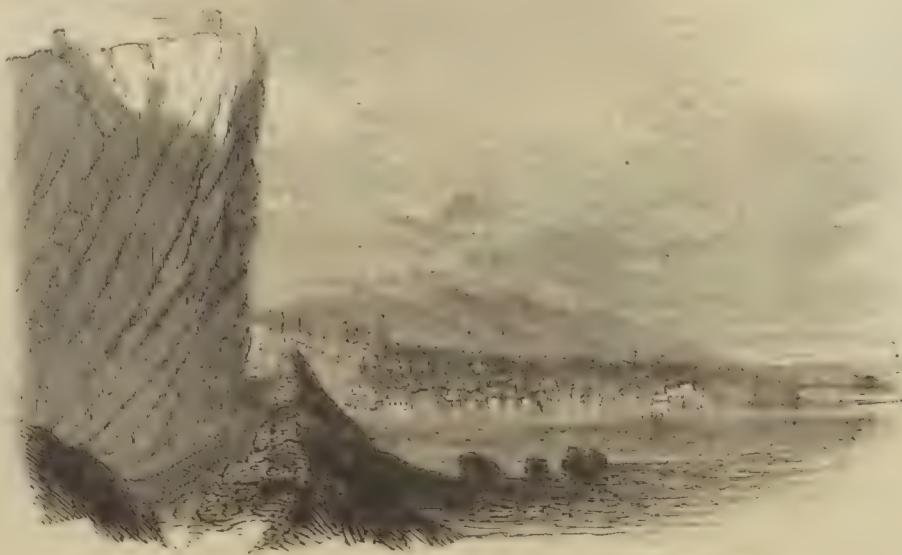
We have to thank a Correspondent at Eupatoria for the accompanying groups, photographed at Eupatoria during the month of January. The man in the lower smaller group wears a Tartar sheepskin dress. Of the characteristics of the Tartars in the Crimea, we find the following very interesting picture in Dr. Koch's "Journal of his Tour in the Crimea and Odessa," just published:—

The Tartars or Nogais here have retained much of the original stamp in their physiognomy and in the structure of their bodies. Their figures, without exception, are short and stumpy; they have round, full faces, straight black hair without any gloss, and but little beard. Their eyes are slit, and the pupil is scarcely distinguishable from the dark iris—both which circumstances form a disagreeable contrast with the yellowish-white of the rest of the eye. The short

stunted nose, somewhat pouting lips, and the scarcely projecting chin, contribute as little to the embellishment of their persons (which average little more than five feet high) as their short necks and puffy limbs. Nevertheless



RUINS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ST. SOPHIA, TREBIZOND.



TREIZOND, FROM A PASS ON THE ROAD TO ERZEROUM.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



THE DOCK LABOURERS, AT THE LONDON DOCKS.

especially among the girls between the ages of seventeen and twenty, though they in general differ little from their countrymen, we find some who not alone have pretensions to beauty, but who even actually merit the title. As the usual yellow colour of the skin assumes in them a delicate tint, with a slight tinge of carmine, they do not strike one as by any means so disagreeable as Tartar women farther advanced in life; so that even when once accustomed to the sick eyes, their mild expression is sufficient to gain the hearts of men of the Indo-European race; but, when a young and beautiful woman has had one or two children, she not only loses her charms rapidly, but soon exhibits an extreme of ugliness such as we scarcely ever meet with among ourselves, and women of the age of thirty look us if they were matrons who had undergone many hardships. It is a curious fact that the Tartars here do not speak the same dialect as their countrymen upon the Caucasus, but have a pronunciation which differs but little from that spoken in Constantine.

The mode of life pursued by the Tartars formed the greatest contrast with that of the vulgar Russian. The money which they earned was brought home to their families, with whom their leisure hours were spent; not a copek was consumed out of the house. The domestic life of the Crimean Tartars is said to be quite unexceptionable: I have spoken with several people who had passed considerable time in the Tartar villages, especially on the southern coast, and who had had opportunities of becoming acquainted with them, and they could not say enough to me of the harmony prevailing among the members of families, the love of order and activity of the women, and the industry of the men. Mr. von Hübler stated to me that one Tartar works on an average as much as two Russians. A Tartar village on the southern coast strikes one immediately on entering it, by the cleanliness of the streets and houses. No naked or ragged children are running about, as we see in Asia, among those belonging to the Christians and Mahometans. The women on the coast also have not the same anxiety to conceal themselves from the gaze of strangers: they are treated better by the men—not, as in Asia among their countrymen and fellow-believers, as if they were mere goods.

TRIBIZOND. (From a Correspondent.)

AMONG the many events of the present stirring period worthy of note may be observed the proclamation from the Turkish Government of the Firman abolishing the slave traffic; the arrest of two Circassian slave-dealers, and the detention of the slaves at the port of Trebizond, through the instrumentality of H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul, Mr. F. Stevens; due support given to Mr. Stevens by the presence of H.M.'s frigate *Tribune*.

It has often been my lot to visit the interesting port of Trebizond, and sufficient importance has not been paid to the valuable supplies which might have been drawn from this place for the use of the Allied army at Varna and in the Crimea. Xenophon, in his history of the retreat of the 10,000 Greeks, gives due credit to the inhabitants for a valuable market

THE FROZEN-OUTS. DOCK LABOURERS.

THE sudden departure of frost at the end of last week happened most seasonably for the poorer classes, and especially for those who are employed on the Thames. The long suspension of business in the waterside premises, docks, and shipping had reduced thousands of the men and their families to starvation; and in spite of all that was done for them at Whitechapel and other workhouses, where outdoor relief was administered, the amount of suffering must have been very great.

The relief granted by the poor-law guardians, has been aided by liberal donations from benevolent individuals. On Friday and Saturday £100 was raised at the Stock Exchange, and immediately transmitted, in sums of £25 and upwards, to clergymen in various parts of London, especially the poorer localities, with a request that it should be laid out in the purchase of food for the necessitous.

In addition to £100, which the Coal, Corn, and Finance Committee of the London Corporation distributed last week among the destitute population, Mr. Julius H. Thompson, shipbroker, of Billiter-street, City, raised a sum of £300 and upwards from his friends and the mercantile community in aid of the distressed dock labourers. The amount (£300) he paid over to the London Dock Company and the St. Katharine Dock Company, which each contributed a large sum for the like purpose, which has been distributed to the most necessary by the parochial clergy, who readily undertook the task, and by the servants of the dock companies—the donations being apportioned to the exigencies of each case. During the excitement and rioting in the east of London, many of the coalwhippers and labourers offered to assist the police, if required, in the protection of the property of the shopkeepers in the neighbourhood.



EXTERIOR OF WHITECHAPEL WORKHOUSE, ON FRIDAY WEEK.

OPINIONS OF THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. VI.)

IT is really very hard that a Minister who resigns his place in the Cabinet will not go away quietly, without taking up the time of the country with long explanations of his reasons for going out. A whole night was occupied in the House of Commons with harangues from two or three seceders whom the public would have been quite satisfied to get rid of without any apology on the part of the individuals who had resolved on resigning their offices into, let us hope, better hands. It would be far more satisfactory if those who are about quitting the public service would "stand not upon the reasons for their going, but go at once." There is not yet any difficulty in finding men to fill the vacant places; and we ought not to call on a public servant to apologise for his retirement until we find we have no one else fitted to do the work. One would think, however, that the country must be rather hard put to it for a Colonial Minister, or else that the Colonial-office has the valuable quality of self-management, when a nobleman who has just started for Vienna is selected as the head of the department. How the Colonies will like the arrangement remains to be seen. Perhaps, as there has been a great deal of grumbling on the part of the colonists against the Home Government, it is thought that they may find pleasure in variety; and if novelty is indeed delightful, they ought to be delighted at having had four Colonial Ministers within the last twelve months. If three statesmen in succession have failed to give satisfaction, it is possible that a fourth may be more fortunate; and, at all events, he can scarcely run the risk of giving offence, for he is away on his travels; and if he could do no good in Downing-street, he is not there to do any harm. It was suggested that it would be as well for a Colonial Minister to be at his post; but it was said, in reply, that somebody or other had guaranteed that the public should not be put to any inconvenience, and with this vague assurance, the House of Commons, if not the Colonies, would seem to have been content. The Premier, when questioned on the subject, reminded his questioner that there is a permanent Under Secretary, who would do all that is necessary; but nobody asked—Why, if there is a lower officer at a lower salary, who is sufficient for the object required, a higher officer at a higher salary need be appointed at all? Mr. Leebuck mentioned the case of a gentleman from Newfoundland, who had already related his case to four Colonial Ministers, and who will, probably have the pleasure of repeating the "old, old story" to a fifth, on the return of Lord John Russell from his duties abroad.

I may be accused of wishing to check the flow of public benevolence; but I am satisfied that the practice of sending money to the metropolitan police-courts is very much overdone. It is neither practicable nor proper that the magistrates should be interrupted in their ordinary duties, to perform the task of relieving-officers, for which they have neither the time nor the machinery at their disposal. If they give indiscriminately they do much more harm than good, and it is impossible that they can inquire personally, or by the help of the police, into the cases of the thousands of applicants that are found besieging the police-courts from a knowledge that the magistrates have money to give away. The possibility of relief being afforded at a police-court to a casual applicant may also have the effect of making relieving-officers negligent of their duty; and thus the legal provision made for poverty is sometimes rendered inoperative; and the sense of responsibility is weakened among those with whom responsibility ought to rest. The only legitimate cases for the interference of magistrates are those arising out of the business before them, and these are so rare that a very moderate amount of contribution to the poor-box would amply suffice for every proper object. If special cases should arise a special appeal might easily be made, and would always be successful; but, under the present system of lavish contribution to the poor-boxes, there must be the utmost difficulty in knowing how to deal with the funds, unless the police-courts are to be opened as relieving establishments to all applicants. One of the magistrates (Mr. Yardley) has, according to report, found it necessary to appeal to the public to refrain from sending more money; and his colleague (Mr. Ingham) is stated in the papers to have been compelled to leave his court by a private door to avoid the danger of being mobbed by a large crowd of persons demanding relief, which the parish authorities are, in all cases of real necessity, legally bound to bestow. If the public wish to make provision for the poor, beyond that which the law renders imperative, it would be easy to entrust their contributions to some of the clergy of every denomination, without regard to differences of creed or sect, or to some of those visiting and relief societies which abound in every district of the metropolis. In the quarters here indicated poverty is the subject of constant watchfulness, and imposition would be generally avoided, as the societies alluded to are composed of individuals who visit their poorer neighbours, and know where assistance would be well applied. This course is far better than conducting inquiries into the private circumstances of the poor through the means of the police—a mode which must be as distasteful to the honest needy as it is inquisitorial and likely to be abused. Enough of odium has already been brought on the police by the practice of withdrawing them in some instances from their legitimate duties, and it is not advisable to run the risk of any further demoralisation by engaging them in the delicate task of assisting in the dispensation of the funds sent for the relief of distress. I hope these observations will be well weighed by all who read them, and tend to check a practice which is growing into a very serious evil, of which all the bad results are not yet foreseen. Already have courts of justice been converted into scenes of confusion by demands which ought to be complied with; and it is said that the well-meant, but ill-judged, distribution of relief at the Liverpool Exchange was the cause of those bread riots in that town, which furnished the example for those lawless acts that were commenced, but promptly suppressed, in the metropolis.

If any further reasons were needed for not employing the police in what may be called extra-official duties, it is supplied in the fact that the force has already quite as much as it can do, and that its hours of labour have recently been curtailed. The practice of allowing men to remain on their beats for nine hours in succession is to be discontinued, and not without good reason, for it was almost impossible that the energies could, during so long a period, be sustained at that point of vigilance which is essential to the proper performance of a policeman's duty.

Though the Government has found it difficult to win the confidence of the Legislature, M. Soyer has had the good fortune to obtain what he terms "the confidence of the Government," and is going out—or has probably gone already—to Scutari as *chef de cuisine*. His *batterie* will, it is to be hoped, prove a source of strength to our army, and he will in all probability be welcomed as a great gun. His abilities must not be displayed in adding to the variety of the side-dishes at the tables of the staff officers, but in providing for the humbler necessities of the men. Happily, though he possesses a genius which can cope with all the difficulties of the most elaborate *entrees*, he can condescend to the simplest cookery, or give attractiveness to the very coarsest fare.

Every one who offers his services to the Government is not so lucky as M. Soyer in getting them accepted, though there are men who aspire to something loftier than cookery, and who are found advertising their capacity for statesmanship, and their readiness to accept employment in that line. As it is not yet the practice for politicians to solicit employment in so many words in the advertising columns of a newspaper, it is the fashion among candidates for office to call their constituents together and make long speeches, which are, in fact, prospectuses or circulars addressed to those entrusted with the office of Government, and who have places to give away. I will not be so invidious as to mention names, but I do not say that the practice is altogether to be condemned if the opinions put forth are sincere, for a desire to serve one's country is certainly within the sphere of an honest ambition. There may be a little quackery in the mode adopted for making one's pretensions known but it may be answered that in these days of competition, and taking into consideration the loud demand of the nation to be served by the fittest men, it may be excusable to resort to the advertising medium in the political as well as in any other business in which a party may be engaged.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The motion for the second reading of the Criminal Justice Bill and the Speedy Trial of Offenders Bill elicited some discussion relative to the working of the existing law in cases of felony, in which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Brougham, Lord Campbell, and the Earl of Desart took part. The bills were read a second time.

The Registration of Judgments Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

On the motion of Mr. HAYTER, new writs were ordered for the city of London, the county of Forfar, and the boroughs of Radnor and Halifax, to supply the vacancies caused by the acceptance of office by the late representatives:—Lord J. Russell having been appointed Colonial Secretary; Lord Duncan, Lord of the Treasury; Sir G. C. Lewis, Chancellor of the Exchequer; and Sir C. Wood, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Relying to Sir J. Pakington, Lord PALMERSTON stated that, in the absence of Lord J. Russell, the necessary business of the Colonial Department would be provided for by his right hon. friend (Sir G. Grey), who was recently Secretary for the Colonies. He had, however, no reason to apprehend that the noble Lord would be long detained from his official duties.

ARMY MANAGEMENT.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. F. FRENCH called attention to the gallantry displayed by Sergeant Sullivan in successive engagements in the Crimea, and inquired why the deserts of that brave soldier had not been recognised by the award of a commission?

Lord PALMERSTON remarked that a certain number of commissions had been placed at the disposal of Lord Raglan, for the reward of distinguished merit among the non-commissioned officers, but that the Government had no intention of interfering with his selection of the persons who were to be so recompensed.

Mr. LINDSEY commented upon the extravagance and mismanagement displayed in many departments of the British military system, and especially in the transport service. The hon. member illustrated his criticisms by drawing comparisons between the British and the French administrations in this branch of the service.

A discussion of a very miscellaneous character followed, in which a multitude of questions and details relating to the Army and its organisation, formed the subjects for censure or vindication by many hon. members.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and proceeded to discuss and pass the remaining votes of the series for the Army expenditure. In Committee of Ways and Means a resolution was afterwards passed, authorising a sum of £17,183,000 to be raised by Exchequer Bills towards the service of the ensuing year.

The Militia (Ireland) Bill and the Commons Inclosure Bill were respectively read a second time.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

MAJOR-GENERAL VIVIAN.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH inquired whether the reported appointment of Major-General Vivian to command the Turkish contingent under British pay was actually completed, expressing some doubts of that gallant officer's experience for so delicate a service?

Lord PANMURE stated that Major-General Vivian had occupied very similar positions in India, and had received the highest testimonials from the authorities in that country. His appointment to the Turkish command had been determined upon upon the evidences of capacity, and the Secretary of War considered that his services were likely to prove highly useful in the post to which he had been nominated.

After a few words from Lord VIVIAN, the subject dropped.

The Criminal Justice Bill and the Speedy Trial of Offenders Bill respectively passed through committee.

THE TRANSPORT SERVICE.

The Earl of HARDWICKE, in moving for certain returns respecting transports, took occasion to comment upon the manner in which the transport service had been performed during the past campaign.

Lord PANMURE gave some explanation touching certain points remarked upon by the noble Earl, and, after some observations from the Earls of Derby and Ellenborough, the returns were ordered to be produced.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

A new writ was issued for the borough of Northampton, in the room of Mr. Vernon Smith, who has accepted the office of President of the Board of Control.

ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS.

In answer to Mr. Hadfield, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL stated that a bill for the entire abolition of the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts was in preparation, but he could not say when it would be laid before the House. He hoped, however, that a bill for removing the testamentary jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts to another tribunal would soon be laid on the table. His own opinion was, that probate in one court ought to be available in all parts of her Majesty's dominions.

MR. KENNEDY'S DISMISSAL.

In answer to Mr. Bland, Mr. J. WILSON explained that, though Mr. Kennedy had been removed from his Commissionership of the Woods and Forests, yet, as his successor had not been appointed, he was entitled to and had received his salary up to last quarter-day.

Mr. J. SHELLEY moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the grounds on which Mr. Kennedy was removed from his office as a Commissioner of the Woods and Forests. He entered into a lengthened narrative of the circumstances connected with the case, the substance of which was that Mr. Kennedy, having been appointed to the office of the Woods and Forests, had employed a Mr. Brown under him without the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury. Other causes of difference ensued, but that out of which arose Mr. Kennedy's dismissal was a difference on a matter of fact between Mr. Brown and Mr. Higinbotham, the Deputy-Surveyor, on the management of the Alice Holt Forest, in which Mr. Kennedy took part with Mr. Brown, and made certain grave reflections on the integrity of the Deputy-Surveyor. This gave rise to a long series of correspondence and investigations, which ended in the removal of Mr. Brown first, and afterwards of Mr. Kennedy. As the honourable member felt that this was harsh and unjust treatment, he moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the whole circumstances of the case.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in commencing his reply, adverted to words used by the hon. member, that the ostensible reason for Mr. Kennedy's dismissal was not the real reason, but because he was too zealous and too active for certain members of the Government. If the hon. member would reduce that charge to writing, and undertake to make it good, he would withdraw all further opposition, and consent to the Committee at once. Would the hon. member accept that challenge?

Mr. J. SHELLEY fell back upon some conversation which he understood Mr. Kennedy had with Mr. Wilson, the Secretary to the Treasury, which led him to form that opinion.

Mr. GLADSTONE said this was virtually refusing to stand by his words; and he must, therefore, go on to state certain circumstances which would enable the House to form its own judgment on the motion, though he himself would not vote on the question. The whole charge against him resolved into this—that he had committed an error in judgment. Now, if the House of Commons was determined to appoint committees to inquire into every case of alleged error of Ministerial judgment—if they were to tell Ministers whom they should appoint and whom they should dismiss from appointments—they would effectually put an end to Ministerial responsibility. He would not rest, however, upon these general principles; he would enter at once into the merits of the case, and he would state that he removed Mr. Kennedy because it was impossible to carry on the public business with him, and because he (Mr. Gladstone) considered himself the protector of the characters of the inferior officers as well as of Mr. Kennedy. The grounds on which Mr. Kennedy was removed were chiefly two—those affecting Mr. Brown, and those affecting Mr. Higinbotham. It was unnecessary to enter into all the causes of his dissatisfaction as respected Mr. Brown. As respects Mr. Higinbotham, he contended that Mr. Kennedy had made a deliberate charge of falsehood against Mr. Higinbotham, on account of which he intimated his intention to dismiss him. That this charge against Mr. Higinbotham was totally unfounded he contended from the evidence of disinterested parties called in to report upon the facts. But, as Mr. Kennedy refused to retract his charge, it became necessary to remove either Mr. Kennedy or Mr. Higinbotham. He chose the former.

Lord STANLEY contended that the system of governing the civil service which the right hon. gentleman had put forth was more despotic than that which prevailed either in the military or the naval services. In these professions no officer could be dismissed without a trial; but the right hon. gentleman claimed the right of dismissing a civil servant without trial and without appeal. Even upon the showing of the right honourable gentleman, Mr. Kennedy's offence amounted to no more than an error of judgment. That, according to the right hon. gentleman, was a very venial offence in a Cabinet Minister; but it amounted, in his eyes, to a very serious crime when it appeared in a subordinate officer. His impression was that Mr. Kennedy had not had a fair trial; and, thinking so, he was in favour of the Committee.

Mr. DRUMMOND objected to the motion because it usurped the powers of the Executive, and because it introduced personal matters into the debates of this House. He praised the conduct and management of the Woods under Mr. Higinbotham; and, though he admitted the zeal of Mr. Kennedy, he must hold that that gentleman was unfit to have the control of men as good as himself.

Mr. MALINS complained of Mr. Gladstone having dismissed Mr. Kennedy without consulting Lord John Russell, who had appointed him, or any other member of the Cabinet. That was a degree of despotism which he trusted that House would not sanction.

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Lord SEYMOUR objected to the appointment of that Committee, as it would fetter the action of the Government in future in their dealings with the civil servants of the public.

Mr. STRUTT pleaded for the Committee as the only means of removing the imputation on Mr. Kennedy's honour and veracity.

Mr. WILSON denied that any charge on Mr. Kennedy's honour or veracity was ever implied. He justified the course pursued by the Government towards Mr. Kennedy, and declared that the only feeling in the Treasury entertained throughout the whole transaction was one of tenderness towards Mr. Kennedy.

After a few words from Mr. Whiteside in favour of the Committee, Lord PALMERSTON urged the friends of Mr. Kennedy to be satisfied with the result of this discussion, where all imputations upon Mr. Kennedy's character, if any such were ever cast upon him, had now been altogether repudiated. He pointed out the inconvenience of appointing a Committee, as subversive of all discipline among the civil servants of the Crown.

Mr. J. SHELLEY asked that the passages in the Treasury minute which should be rescinded.

Lord PALMERSTON had no objection to this, and the motion was then withdrawn.

Mr. R. PHILLIMORE obtained leave to bring in a bill to abolish the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Courts in suits for defamation of character.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

SECOND READINGS.

The following bills were read a second time:—Excoator and Trustee Society Bill; Great Northern Railway (Church and Schools at Doncaster) Bill; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway (Improvements and Branches) Bill; Westminster Land Company Bill; and Westminster Improvements Bill.

EPISCOPAL AND CAPITULAR ESTATES BILL.

The Marquis of BLANDFORD moved the second reading of this bill, which proposes, among other arrangements, to vest in the "Church Estates Commissioners, appointed under the Act 13th and 14th Vic. cap. 94, all the profits, emoluments, and revenues of episcopal and capi- tular estates as respects any see in which no avoidance has happened since the 1st of Jan., 1848, and the Bishop thereof does not already receive a fixed income, from and after the first avoidance of such see, and as respects all other ecclesiastical corporations from the commencement of this Act." The noble Lord contended that the House was bound to promote the efficiency of the Church of England, which was a solemn trust committed to us from generation to generation. It was highly necessary that the Church should be extended by the formation of new parishes, and the erection of new buildings, and this could only be effected by a judicious distribution of ecclesiastical property.

Mr. H. G. LIDDELL moved as an amendment that the bill be read a second time that day six months, on the ground that it was opposed to the whole tenor of our cathedral statutes, and that its principle would be dangerous to the ultimate integrity of those institutions.

Mr. HEADLAM said it would not be for the credit of the House to assent to the second reading of the bill without any serious intention of going on with it, as had been the case on former occasions. He should feel it his duty to vote for the amendment.

Mr. INGHAM supported the amendment.

Mr. H. T. LIDDELL moved the adjournment of the debate until it might be convenient for some members of her Majesty's Government to attend.

Mr. H. S. HERBERT said that was a most unreasonable complaint. The members of the Government were, no doubt, occupied in the consideration of matters of grave importance.

Sir B. HALL said he had been instructed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to say that he was anxious that the second reading of the bill should pass, upon the understanding that the Committee should be postponed until the commission now sitting presented its report.

After a short discussion the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed on the 23rd of May.

The Commons Enclosure Bill was read a third time and passed.

A MAZZINIAN CONSPIRACY.—About five or six weeks ago the police at Milan noticed the presence of some suspicious characters, who were arrested, and the authorities were thus put on the trace of a vast Mazzinian conspiracy, of which ample proofs were soon discovered. In the short space of ten or fifteen days there were arrested quietly in Milan and the neighbourhood about forty persons, some of whom belonged to the upper classes of society. They were all conveyed to Mantua, where the tribunal charged to take cognizance of acts of high treason holds its sittings. The ramifications of this Mazzinian plot do not appear to extend over the Venetian territory, but only to the Duchies and in the States of the Church. The late attempts at Parma, Carrara, Faenza, Forli, and Bologna had a certain connection with the great blow which the ex-triumvir wished to strike in Italy at the commencement of this month.—*Trieste Gazette*.

COOKERY FOR THE SICK.—Miss Nightingale and her assistants, ten days after their arrival, got up a sort of impromptu kitchen. In a case like this, where but one opinion is entertained of its utility, does it not appear extraordinary that the commanding officer, engineer, quartermaster, and whomsoever else it may concern, should, with unlimited means, have taken three months to do three times the work these ladies did in ten days? The Commandant said, "It was a very good thing, indeed, but he could not be expected to be an engineer," and look after it. The engineer passed it on to some one else, and that some one else did not think it was in his department. In short, it was nobody's business; and how three have been nearly got ready, and will be so this week, is quite wonderful. When I see and hear these things I often think if her Majesty's service would suffer, or what would be the shock to the military discipline of the British army, if the commanding officer were to make over the responsibility to some one of having a useful thing like this finished off in a reasonable length of time. From the one hastily-constructed kitchen eight hundred men are daily supplied with a greater or less quantity of well-cooked food. Of the amount of beef-tea served out no account is kept. Those who are acquainted with the plan of cookery pursued in barracks, where all a company's meat and vegetables are boiled in one copper, the portions belonging to messes being kept in separate nets, will know how that food is likely to suit the delicate appetite of a fevered patient; but the means for doing even as well as this are wanting here. No blame is to be attached to the cook, who, of course, is picked at random from any number of men available; and in this case, and to supply this want, the nurses and Miss Sellon's Sisters of Charity shine, as well as in otherwise attending to the wants of the unfortunate sick. They step into a berth absolutely vacant, and assist the surgeons, not only by seeing that the food ordered is well prepared, but by personal attendance. A sick man's appetite is fickle, and a hospital orderly, having many duties to perform, cannot give that immediate attention which the case may require. At the best of times such delay occurs that when the food is brought the appetite is gone. As it is now, the orderly has only to tell one of the nurses, and immediate attention is paid.—*Letter from Constantinople, Feb. 14.*

THE WAR OF THE THREE EMPERORS.—If the Conference of Vienna should fail, at last, in its efforts to re-establish a general peace, everything will be ready, in England, in France, and in Austria, for the campaign of the spring, a campaign so important that it will embrace, in all probability, three theatres, and in which will be engaged at once against Russia, as allies of Turkey, three great nations. If we can place confidence in the revelations of the foreign press, France and England will act in the Baltic, not only with their fleets, but with their armies. Austria and France will be found combating side by side, on the upper part of the Vistula, in a common struggle, which may prolong itself to the frontiers of Poland, as well as to the banks of the Danube. In fine, France and England will be together in the Crimea, supported by Turkey and Sardinia, all gloriously united under the banners of civilisation and European independence. We do not wish to go before events, which may change with the necessity of the moment, nor to hazard conjectures which the future may destroy, as it may realise. Nevertheless, we cannot remain altogether strangers, nor even indifferent to the universal anticipations of the public. We can no more do in this than we can deny the rumours which attribute equally to the two Sovereigns of France and Austria the intention of taking the command respectively of their armies. But already, in anticipation of this great event, which would be only conformable to the noblest traditions of the reigning families of Europe, the people, whose instincts are rarely at fault, has characterised, in its own picturesque language, the forthcoming spring campaign in calling it the War of the Three Emperors. In this war, which will give to Europe a durable and solid peace, beneath the shadow of which she shall therefore march in the ways of progress and the paths of civilisation, and with a new impulse, France shall be seen everywhere with her fleets and her armies. She shall be seen in the Baltic, in the Crimea, on the Vistula. What an immense ascendant does not this glorious rôle which she has taken in the Eastern question guarantee to her future position in the world!—*From a semi-official article in the Constitutionnel.*

A RUSSIAN SPY.—The police in Paris are said to be in search of a person who has passed some time in the East, and particularly at Constantinople, where he became closely intimate with more than one high functionary. He has been for some few months in Paris, where he made himself remarked by his large expenditure, though possessing no ostensible means of livelihood. It is added that he was formerly in the pay of the French police, and the reason of his being now sought after is his alleged connection with the Russian police, several of whose secret agents are still in France.

CONSUMPTION OF SPIRITS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.—The quantity of imported spirits upon which duty was paid in New South Wales, in the quarter ending September 1854, comprised 202,106 gallons; to which adding the quantity of colonial spirits, 33,992 gallons, we have an aggregate for the quarter's consumption of 236,098 gallons, or between four and five gallons per head per annum of the whole population. Comparing the amount of duty paid in the quarter on ardent spirits, malt liquors, and wine, with the amount paid on coffee, we find the former had increased about £1500 over the corresponding quarter of 1853, and the latter had decreased by nearly £4000.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The Queen has given £100 towards the erection of a girls' school for the children of mechanics, artisans, and upper class of labourers in and near Windsor.

The King of Portugal intends to honour the Paris Exhibition with his presence.

M. Martin Van Buren, formerly President of the United States, has arrived in Paris, from Italy.

The Queen and Prince Albert have forwarded to the Bishop of London £300 as a joint contribution to the Association for Promoting the Relief of Destitution in the Metropolis.

M. Merle, orderly officer of the French Emperor, embarked at Marseilles a few days since, on board the *Gange* steamer, for the Crimea; and several other officers are on the point of departing to prepare the way for a new army.

It is said that Lord John Russell would arrive at Vienna on the 2nd inst. (yesterday), and that the sittings of the Congress would begin three or four days afterwards.

Letters from Paris speak of the likelihood of the French Emperor first paying a visit to Vienna, and embarking at Trieste for the seat of war. The Empress, it is said, will not accompany the Emperor, but remain in Paris, on the urgent representations of her medical advisers.

The King of the Belgians went to Brussels from the Palace of Laeken on Sunday morning, and gave a private audience to Lord J. Russell, who had just arrived, in company with Lord Dufferin, Mr. Eliot, and Mr. Byng. The interview between the King and Lord J. Russell lasted a considerable time, after which his Majesty returned to Laeken.

The Emperor of Austria, as a mark of his admiration for Lieut. J. Gérard, the celebrated lion-killer, has just sent him (through the Austrian Embassy at Paris) a very handsome double-barrelled rifle carbine and superb hunting-knife.

Lord Haddo, at the date of the last letters received at the Earl of Aberdeen's, was still at Cairo, in Upper Egypt. His Lordship had derived some benefit by the change of climate, and intends to prolong his residence in the Egyptian territory until the spring.

M. Porro, formerly a superior officer of engineers in the Sardinian army, had, a few days ago, the honour of presenting to the French Emperor a military spy-glass invented by him. The Emperor, considering the glass likely to be exceedingly useful for military purposes, has authorised M. Porro to call it "the spy-glass of Napoleon III."

The Right Rev. Bishop of London proposes to hold his confirmation in Paris on Friday in the Easter week.

The news of the approaching marriage of the Countess de Vista Alegre, eldest daughter of Queen Christina and the Duke de Rianzares, with Prince Ladislas Czartoryski, is confirmed.

The Earl of Portarlington has been elected a Representative Peer of Ireland, in the room of the late Viscount Lortton.

The New York papers deny that Colonel Colt has been losing money by his invention. It was shown by the Commissioner of Patents that he had already made a million dollars by it.

The newly-appointed Governor of South Australia has received the honour of Knighthood from her Majesty. Sir Richard McDonald has been Governor of the British possessions on the west coast of Africa, of St. Lucia, and of St. Vincent.

Admiral Nachimoff has received from the Czar the Order of the White Eagle, as a reward for his services at Sebastopol.

The Americans residing in Paris gave a grand ball on the evening of the 22nd ult., in Herz's great room, in honour of Washington's birthday. Amongst the personages of distinction present were the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Madame Drouyn de Lhuys, Lord and Lady Cowley, several Ministers, and most of the Corps Diplomatique.

Lord Lucan arrived at Marseilles from the Crimea on Tuesday, and left that morning by a special train for London. He will demand a court-martial.

General Mansuroff, who not long since made his appearance in Brussels, is the bearer of a treaty by which Russia cedes to the United States, for the sum of 40,000,000 of silver roubles, or 30,000,000 of dollars, her possessions in North America. Some American statesmen are to meet the Russian General at Brussels.</



H.M. STEAMER "SNAKE" DEFENDING HERSELF FROM THE FIRE OF THE RUSSIAN BATTERY AT KERTCH.

SHARP FIRE BETWEEN H.M. STEAM-SHIP "SNAKE" AND A RUSSIAN BATTERY.

This spirited affair took place on February 2nd, when the *Snake*, in reconnoitring the shipping lying under the batteries of Kertch, got on shore on the edge of the spit of the town, about 3000 yards from the battery, remained nearly two hours exposed to a sharp fire from the Russians, who, thinking to capture the steam-ship, manned their large boats and pushed off; but were speedily saluted with a shower of shot and shell, which at once compelled them to retreat. The ship was got off without having sustained any damage, the ground being soft sand, and the water smooth at the time.

We have to thank an obliging Correspondent for the accompanying sketch of the above affair.

Kertch is the eastern peninsula of the Crimea. The town is a mixture of the Italian and Russian; but presents a more pleasing aspect than most Little Russian towns afford. It is said to contain 10,000 inhabitants; but it does not promise to be a place of much importance until the provinces about the Don enjoy higher civilisation. Thus, Kertch is even now the medium of communication between the provinces and the south; but the products of the Don lands are still insignificant. The Don Cossacks, who occupy the most important lower portion of the territory of the Don, only cultivate as much corn as they require for their own maintenance. They live, besides, simply; and the common people, at least, have few or no wants. The material for their clothing is chiefly made by themselves, or they obtain it from Russian factories. Thus, the chief traffic is confined to the products of the immediate neighbourhood, fish and salt, both of which are exchanged, in places north

of the Sea of Azof, for corn. There is a good deal of traffic, especially with Taganrog, a town which, above twenty years ago, promised to become of some consequence, but since Kertch has risen, has lost its importance. The salt is obtained from small lakes, which occur to the south of Kertch. Much fish is dried, and salted like herrings; several thousand tons of these are exported annually to the south of Russia. Caviar is also prepared.

The town stands on the eastern extremity of the small peninsula where, several hundred years before the Christian era, flourished Panticapaeum, the Royal metropolis of the Bosporanic sovereigns. The importance of this Grecian colony has only been recognised of late, and the opinion will gain ground the more we turn our attention to the remains still extant, a multitude of proofs from the earliest times having been recently discovered.

We abridge these interesting details from Dr. Koch's "Journal of a Tour in the Crimea and Southern Russia," a translation of which has been published within the past week.

SKETCHES AT BALACLAVA.

(From our own Artist.)

I SEND two Sketches. 1. The Interior of an Officer's Hut on the Heights of Balaclava, occupied by five officers of the 1st battalion of Royal Marines. This hut was constructed by Mr. Elliot, one of the occupants, assisted by four privates of the same corps. The whole of the woodwork

of the roof was picked up on the rocks, from the wrecks of the English transports lost at Balaclava on the 14th November, 1854. The iron of the fireplace was also from the same wrecks; and the canvas used as the roof was an old sail belonging to the *Lady Valiant*, an English transport, dismasted in the same storm. The hut was commenced soon after the gales of the 14th November, and was finished and taken possession of on the 5th December.

The second Sketch (see page 200) shows the Exterior of the Huts, Tents, &c., of the Rifles and 1st Royal Marines, encamped on the heights of Balaclava; and the battery with a fatigue party of French soldiers of the line crossing the hills with wood for the manufacture of gabions, fascines, &c., &c. In the ravine is a French encampment near the plains of Balaclava. In the foreground is one of the Rifles, in a long sheepskin coat with the wool inside, a cap with the wool outside, waterproof leggings, &c.; the other is one of the Royal Marines, in his grey great-coat, fraternising with a French soldier of the line. In the extreme distance, on the horizon, may be seen a few of the topmasts of our fleet off Cape Chersonese. The Russians are ascending again in great force towards the valley of the Inkerman, throwing out videttes, &c.; and Balaclava is momentarily expected to be attacked, the war vessels in the harbour are drawn across, in order to protect our shipping. We are endeavouring to procure horses, without which we can do very little, as the roads are in a dreadful state and it is impossible to go up to the Camp without being on horseback.



INTERIOR OF AN OFFICER'S HUT AT BALACLAVA.



CARRYING THE WOUNDED TO BALACLAVA.

CARRYING THE SICK AND FROST-BITTEN TO
BALACLAVA.

ONE Sketch represents the melancholy procession of a band of frost-bitten patients from the heights to Balaclava; the other a party of soldiers harnessed to a car, in which are four sick men, whom their comrades are dragging painfully along to the hospital. In the latter Sketch a long file of men may be seen in the distance struggling up the hill with planks on their shoulders. Such was the state of affairs, as seen by our Artist, on the 7th of February. Since that time matters are said to have improved, but there are still great complaints of want of management. One correspondent, writing from Balaclava, on the 10th ult., says:—

I regret to state that sickness does not diminish in the Camp. Scurvy and low fever extend their action every day. Now, scurvy is mainly caused among debilitated men by the use of salt meat and the want of vegetables. Even fresh meat alone will develop it among men worn out by excessive labour, should they have no leguminous diet. I believe there has been only one cargo exclusively of vegetables ever sent up here, and that came in the *Harbinger*, which lay in Balaclava for weeks, till her load of potatoes and onions began to rot and become putrid, so that much of it was unfit for use and had to be thrown away. Whoever had an order got a sack of potatoes; but who could carry a sack of potatoes to the front? Meantime, ships chartered by Government for the use of the service come in day after day to Balaclava with quantities of vegetables *for sale*, and with stores of provisions to be sold for the private profit of the stewards and adventurers at great prices, though the charterer of these vessels expressly forbids any such use to be made of any ship, or any private property to be conveyed in her, while she is in the employment of the Government. The commissariat ought to avail themselves of the supplies brought in by these means, and should purchase them at a reasonable rate—a proposition the owners cannot

object to, seeing that the articles they have imported in this way are all liable, if I am rightly informed, to instant seizure.

It is, however, so far encouraging that there is a diminution in the rate of mortality at Scutari. On the 8th of February there were fifty-two burials; on the 9th, forty-nine; on the 10th, forty-eight; on the 11th, fifty-three; on the 12th, forty-two; on the 13th, thirty-two; and on the 14th, thirty-nine—making in seven days a total of 315, of whom two were military surgeons. On the morning of the 14th there were in hospital 5323 non-commissioned officers and privates, and eighty-seven officers. There had arrived from the Crimea on the 7th the *Robert Lowe*, with 174 invalids, of whom five died. On the 9th the *Adelaide* and the *Emu*: the former carrying 154, of whom one died; and the latter 147, of whom none died. On the 11th the *Melbourne*, with 150, of whom two died; and the *Brandon*, with 118, of whom one died. Most of these steamers have taken their sick to Smyrna, and a detachment of orderlies, recently organised in England, was conveyed there from Scutari on the 11th, to assist in establishing the new hospital. On the 9th the *Malacca* sailed for England with forty invalids, and on the 15th the *Arabia* took her departure with 200.

The great increase of fever in the hospitals at Scutari has been the chief point of remark lately. For weeks it has been gaining strength, and now rages with a destructive vigour which is in the highest degree alarming. Some of the medical men give it one name and some another, but all are agreed as to its malignant character, and in a greater or less degree, as to its origin and progress. On the former point no more decisive evidence can be given than the fact, that in less than a month it has swept away no less than seven surgeons, while eight more were, according to the last accounts, prostrate under its influence. Struthers, Newton, Watson, Langham, Macartney, Alibert, and Marshall, had died of it, after very short illnesses, and McIlree, Johnson, Muirhead,

Hooper, Guy, Summers, Graham, and Price were more or less seriously ill. Others have been affected, but have struggled through their duties notwithstanding, and it is to be hoped may suffer no bad consequences from their imprudent zeal. Three of the nurses had been attacked, and fears were entertained for the recovery of one of them. On board the transport ships and in the hospitals the mortality among the orderlies was very great, while the nurses and surgeons were still comparatively exempt. As, however, the numbers of sick increased, the infectious and malignant character of the fever had become more marked and decided. The Barrack Hospital and Kulee have both been overcrowded, and there, as might be expected, it was committing the greatest ravages. The General Hospital has been more fortunate or better managed in this respect, and in consequence had suffered less.

Although fever was on the increase in the hospitals, and their over-crowded state and the want of surgeons had led to the derangement of some plans from which good results were expected to flow, other improvements are described as being in progress which promise to yield beneficial fruits. Dr. Cumming is in the full exercise of authority as Inspector-General, and will, it is thought, rectify many things that should have been put straight long ago. Under his sanction extra diet kitchens are being provided at convenient points, the orderlies enabled to sleep and eat out of the wards; and it is said that he is likely to approve of an arrangement by which some of the medical officers may be relieved from constant residence in the poisonous atmosphere of the hospitals. What, however, may be considered as the most satisfactory news regarding the hospitals at Scutari, is the reported arrival, in the *Eagle*, and in another steamer, of large stocks of things indispensable to a well-ordered hospital establishment, and which, it was thought, would afford an opportunity of something being done to make each ward and bed complete in its own furniture and equipment.



CARRYING THE FROST-BITTEN TO BALACLAVA.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The frost is gone at last, after five weeks' persistence; London has come back to its usual winter state of fog, mud, and slop. Carnival has ceased to be held on the Serpentine, and the *employés* of the Humane Society are congratulating themselves on the arrival of the blissful season when they have nothing to do but smoke their pipes and eat their meals—when there is no ice for skating, and it is too cold to bathe, except for such hardened philaleutes as the late Sir Lancelot Shadwell, who used to jump into the nearest river every day in the year, even when it was necessary to break the ice with a pole, as a preliminary to the immersion. But, on the whole, the balance of profit strongly inclines on the side of the sloppy thaw, against the crisp, bracing frost which made the parks so gay, and the pulse of the active pedestrian tingle in every vein; for now the docks will be free from the ice which, like an aneurism in the human frame, has for several weeks impeded their commercial circulation; the winter-bound ships will now get clear from their moorings, lighters and barges can now go on their accustomed journeys; even *Citizen A* and *Waterman 7* will soon recommence their interrupted plying between Chelsea and Greenwich; oysters will again become eatable, and codfish cease to be woolly; the navy will be able to get his pick into the softened earth, and the costermonger will rejoice to find that it is no longer too cold for people to eat oranges. A dozen degrees of higher temperature, a few hours of drizzling rain, mean bread for tens of thousands. It was high time—ten days ago that bread was beginning to be terribly wanted. For weeks' whole regiments of working men—navvies, dock-labourers, bargemen, gardeners—had been unemployed. Luckily, the great prosperity which the labouring class have enjoyed, in general, during the last two years, had given to most some funds which they could draw upon; but, with the present high price of provisions, these did not last long; and when they were exhausted starvation came on. It does not seem as if the "constituted authorities"—that is, the vestries, the directors of the poor, &c.—were altogether as active or as foreseeing as they should have been, and perhaps even that marvellous flood of English private charity ran shallower this year (just at first, at least,) than it is wont to do; but, somehow, starvation there was, even among those who, from their ability in ordinary times to earn good wages, were unused to it; and, consequently, bread riots. They broke out first at Liverpool, then in a very few other towns in the north and west, and finally at the east end of London. Perhaps I rate the check of morality too low, but it has occurred to me that it is wonderful that hungry men should, in the streets of a city, allow themselves to hunger, when bread is to be had for the taking, and the only result of detection would be the removal to a place where food and warmth are sure to be obtained. Perhaps the reason is that the very poor, those in whose minds the craving for nourishment might be supposed to overpower all other feelings, have been brought down to this pass by slow degrees, so that when the loaf in the baker's shop is most tempting, they actually want the energy to take it; but, with strong men, accustomed to good feeding, brought by a dispensation of Providence, almost suddenly, to the verge of starvation, the case is very different. Clemency, as the Lancashire folk call it, is not so unbearable when you are used to it; but, when you are not, the chances are that you do as the poor dock labourers and gardeners did at Whitechapel last week—you break into a baker's shop and take the bread which you can't buy, and have not the courage to want. It was robbery, of course, yet surely of the most venial kind. On the whole, too, the robbers (though, of course, there were some scamps among them, with whom hunger was only a pretext) behaved remarkably well, taking from the shops little besides food, and committing hardly any personal injury or unnecessary violence. It is all over now; almost with the first drip from the housetops the bakers, butchers, cheesemongers, and butchers, raised their state of siege, and that large exposition of doubtful eatables which usually graces the Whitechapel-road is now as showy and odoriferous as ever.

In several of the great towns, and in the borough of Marylebone, "war-meetings" have been held. Strong speeches, reading like *Times* leading articles put into bad English, have been made; and, setting aside all faults of grammar and style, and making due allowance for that unfortunate disease of speech-making under which so large a number of her Majesty's subjects are known to suffer, and which prompts them to welcome a grievance and make the most of it, as of a positive blessing, there can be little doubt that the conviction of these meetings has been the TRUTH—that our administration of military affairs has been notoriously and scandalously defective; and that it may be presumed that the vice of mal-administration is not confined to the War Department and the Admiralty. Of course our unlucky Commissariat has been the chief object of attack; but it is odd that one of the strongest arguments as to the inefficiency of its constitution has not been hit upon by any of the speakers—that which may be drawn from the superior condition of our Artillery force to that of the rest of the Army. "We are all nearly starved here," writes an officer of the Guards, "excepting the fellows in the Artillery, who are as fat as pigs." And this is true, taken *cum grano*—that is, the "fellows in the Artillery, though they would not be good models for bacon, have not really suffered more than troops under canvas in a winter campaign might expect to do. And why? Because the Artillery enjoy the advantages of a special organisation, have their own staff—who are not necessarily the General's nephews and cousins, and to a certain extent (so far at least as the means of transport are concerned) their own commissariat. The question of promotion by purchase, too, is getting to be very generally agitated. Now this is just one of the subjects upon which it is most easy to sophisticate a man's reason. The first view any one would take of it is, that, as you certainly would like to promote the best soldier, it is unwise to put it out of your power to do so unless he has got money. Thinking a little longer, and, as you fancy, a little deeper, on the subject, it occurs to you that, as few ensigns or lieutenants are likely (especially in peace time) to have the occasion to distinguish themselves so particularly that the expediency of their promotion out of their turn would become self-evident, it follows that, doing away with purchase, you will have to fall back upon the system of seniority, and that grey-haired captains and gouty majors would become unpleasantly plentiful in the ranks of the Army. You don't want to be perpetually promoting the good boy of the regiment, who never gets into scrapes, and stands well with the Colonel and the Divisional General, because you have an idea that that estimable character, like the first-class man at Oxford is apt to be something of a "null" when it comes to real hard work; in short, you see a difficulty—you see, too, that in common justice you can't change the system without paying the price of their commissions to the present holders, which would cost a vast sum of money; so you begin to think that the present system may not be so bad after all; and you content yourself with it on the plea, not that it is the best possible, but the best that can be thought of (that is, that you can think of) "under the circumstances." A little deeper thought—a little more consideration of what might be done by a different administration of the Army—would lead you back to the first superficial view of the question, and verify Talleyrand's maxim, "Qu'il faut se défier du premier mouvement, attendu que c'est presque toujours le bon." How often has it been said that the superior efficiency of the French Army to ours is to be attributed to their constant state of warfare in Algiers, which has hardened and instructed men and subalterns in the arts and sciences of campaigning, and educated a succession of officers, still youthful, in whom both soldiers and Government know by experience they can trust. Have we, then, no India, where we are always at war with

somebody or another? Here is a practical training-ground for military experience far more complete than the plains of the Metidja or the defiles of the Atlas. Note, too, that our wars in India are nearly always successful, unless when, as in the Cabul expedition, the Home Government interferes too directly with their management; and note, too, that the East India Company, though a good deal hampered by rather stringent rules of seniority, do manage to promote comparatively young men who show they have "the stuff in them"—witness Outram, and Mayne, and Edwards.

There is manna in the wilderness—one bright spot in the desert of uncertain politics and unpleasant despatches. The "great Kennedy case" (who that has read "Redgauntlet" but remembers the great case of "Feebles v. Plainstanes," and who that does but must be struck with the resemblance between the tedious pleadings of poor Peter and the tedious speech of Sir John Shelley, and the more tedious answer of Mr. Gladstone?)—the great Kennedy case is disposed of. Long suffering, indeed, is the House of Commons which did not allow itself to be counted out. Sir John Shelley, thinking Mr. Kennedy ill-used, was quite right to bring his case before the House, yet surely he might have done it in a shorter form; and Mr. Gladstone might with advantage have imitated the good example. The whole matter might have been settled (in fact after all nothing was done) in half an hour, and it was allowed to occupy the entire evening.

PROFESSOR OWEN ON THE FOOT-MARKS IN THE SNOW IN DEVON.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

An esteemed zoological friend has submitted to me a carefully-executed drawing of one of the more perfect impressions left in the snow at Luscombe, South Devon, on or about the 8th of last month. It was of the hind-foot of a Badger. This is almost the only plantigrade quadruped we have in this island, and leaves a foot-print larger than would be supposed from its size. The Sketch, of which you have given a Cut in p. 187 (Feb. 24th), gives a correct general idea of the shape and proportions of these foot-prints, but without the indications of the pads on the sole, and the five small claws, which the drawing sent to me exhibited. Such perfect foot-prints were rare, because those of the fore and hind-foot are commonly more or less blended together, producing the appearance of a line of single foot-steps; which appearance, if a bear had been abroad in the five winter months spent by your Correspondent in Canada, would have shown him was not peculiar to the foot-steps of man, but characteristic of other plantigrade mammals, though they may be quadrupedal. The badger sleeps a good deal in his winter retreat, but does not hibernate so regularly and completely as the bear does in the severer climate of Canada. The badger is nocturnal, and comes abroad occasionally in the late winter, when hard-pressed by cold and hunger: it is a stealthy prowler, and most active and enduring in its quest of food.

That one and the same animal should have gone over 100 miles of a most devious and irregular route in one night is as improbable as that one badger only should have been awake and hungry out of the number concealed in the 100 miles of rocky and bosky Devonshire which has been startled by the impressions revealed by the rarely-spread carpet of snow in that beautiful county.

The onus of the proof that one creature made them in one night rests with the assertor, who ought to have gone over the same ground, with a power of acute and unbiased observation, which seems not to have been exercised by him who failed to distinguish the truly single from the blended foot-prints in question.

Nothing seems more difficult than to see a thing as it really is, unless it be the right interpretation of observed phenomena.

RICHARD OWEN.

We have likewise received communications upon the above subject from A. B. P., Ipswich; A. CONSTANT READER, Burgh; A. A.; I. S., Jersey; K. L. M., Clifton. W. W., Somerset, will perhaps state the authority for the statement of the strayed swan. The following are ingenious attempts to explain this remarkable appearance:—

I HAVE read with great interest the paragraph in your last publication giving an account of the most extraordinary prints in the snow, which have occasioned such excitement and fomented so melancholy a mass of superstitious folly in the villages lying southward of Exeter, on either side of the river Exe.

Permit me, however, to state that the outline accompanying your intelligent Correspondent's recital of the circumstances hardly conveys a correct idea of the prints in question. As an amateur accustomed to make most accurate drawings from nature, I set to work soon after these marks appeared and completed the accompanying exact fac-simile of those that were visible on the lawn of our clergyman's garden in this parish. He and I traced them through a low privet hedge, by a circular opening of one foot diameter. On applying a rule, the interval between each impression was found to be undeviatingly eight inches and a half. On the same day a mutual acquaintance, familiar with natural history, and not long since returned from the Pacific Ocean, measured the intervals between similar prints in his garden, above a mile and a half distant from the Rectory, and found it to be exactly eight inches and a half. This, in my opinion, is one of the most remarkable and confounding circumstances we have to deal with. In the course of a few days a report was circulated that a couple of kangaroos had got loose from a private menagerie (Mr. Fische's, I believe) at Sidmouth. Few of us had had opportunities of seeing the impression made on sand or loam by the hinder feet, or hocks rather, on which this animal sits; and we were not unwilling to give credence to the suggestion that the exotic quadruped (walking, when it does walk, as a biped; but bounding over vast lengths of space more like a chamois) might have been loose and vagrant in the neighbourhood, and left the strange impress here referred to. Still, it was quite inexplicable that the animal, considering the scale of the foot, should leave, in single file, one print only, and, as has been already observed, with intervals as exactly preserved as if the prints had been made by a drill, or any other mechanical frame. A scientific acquaintance informed me of his having traced the same prints across a field up to a hay-stack. The surface of the stack was wholly free from marks of any kind, but on the opposite side of the stack, in a direction exactly corresponding with the track thus traced, the prints began again! The same fact has been ascertained in respect of a wall intervening.

No animal with cushion paw, such as the feline tribe—diminutive or large (cat or tiger)—exhibit, could have made these marks; for the feet of most quadrupeds tread in parallel lines, some widely divercated, others approximating very closely. The ass, especially, among the animals daily seen, approaches the single line. The fox leaves round dots in a single line; the stoat two and one alternately. Moreover, the feline tribe leave concave prints; whereas, in each of these mystic prints, the space enclosed by the bounding line was convex, as in the print of a pattern.

Early in the week we were informed that two cranes had been shot at Otterton, below Budleigh Salterton, and that these were the mystical printers; but the well-informed in zoology at once rejected this offered explanation. Within the last four-and-twenty hours, a very shrewd and intellectual neighbour of mine, about six miles distant, wrote me word that a gentleman in the parish adjoining his own had traced these peculiar prints through his garden-walks into a six-inch gutter, and there he saw the marks of claws. This has induced some to suppose them to be the track of a catamountain. Two other gentlemen, resident in the same parish, pursued a line of prints during three hours and a half, marking their progress under gooseberry-bushes and espalier fruit-trees; and then, missing them, regained sight of the impression on the roofs of some houses to which their march of investigation brought them. These gentlemen "swear to claws." Upon which my correspondent (a member of the Society of Antiquaries) observes, "We incline to believe they must be otters," driven out in quest of food. Our friend felt toe-marks at the contracted part of the print, though they were not discernible by the eye."

Some "chief amang" the congregation where I was discoursing three Sundays since had evidently been "taking notes, and, faith! he printed them" (as Burns would say); and though, without incurring the charge of the slightest approach to irreverence, I found a very apt opportunity to mention the name of kangaroo, in allusion to the report then current. I certainly did not pin my faith to that version of the mystery, nor call upon others to receive it *ex cathedra*; but the state of the public mind of the villagers, the labourers, their wives and children, and old crones, and trembling old men, dreading to stir out after sunset, or to go out half a mile into lanes or by-ways, on a call or message, under the conviction that this was the Devil's walk, and none other, and that it was wicked to trifle with such a manifest proof of the Great Enemy's immediate presence, rendered it very de-

sirable that a turn should be given to such degrading and vitiated notions of a superintending Divine Providence; and I was thankful that a kangaroo was "in the wind," as we should say, and serving to disperse ideas so derogatory to a christianised, but assuredly most unenlightened community. I was reminded, nevertheless, by one pertinacious recusant, that it is written that Satan should be unchained for a thousand years, and that the latter days are at hand. Still, mine was a word in due season, and did good.

The generality of such of us as can reason dispassionately on view of a phenomenon which seems, as yet, to be without precedent or parallel, incline to believe it must be a bird of some unfamiliar tribe, wandering and hopping over this region; but all inquiry seems to be fruitless. I have addressed communications to the British Museum, to the Zoological Society, to the keepers of birds and beasts in the Regent's-park menagerie; and the universal reply is, they are utterly unable to form any conjecture on the subject, however correctly the impressions had been copied.

I am emboldened to address you with more than the ordinary confidence of a correspondent "well up in his facts," inasmuch as I am living in the centre of the district where the alarm, so to speak, was first given. Sir L. Newmarch's Park, at Mamhead, is exactly opposite to my own residence. Star-cross Tower is an object of the picturesque, and beautiful to gaze upon from my study window; and Powderham Castle gleams in the sunshine, half a mile further up. These are on the other side (west) of the river Exe, two miles in its breadth; and the marks were as abundant throughout the places just specified, and their neighbourhood—Kenton, Dawlish, Newton, &c.—as here at Exmouth, Witcombe, Ralegh, Lymington, Woodbury, Topsham, and the vicinity of Bideford, Budleigh. There are many "travelled men," and deep-thinkers, too, among us, far from being

Credulous to false prints

(as *Isabella* says to *Angelo*); but—eager as we are to ascertain the exact point of knowledge in natural history at which the elucidation of this unprecedented mystery might commence—our anxiety as zoologists, or as students or connoisseurs in any one of the *Artois* (or sciences), is a feeling of apathetic indifference in comparison with our regret for the prevalence and evil-working of that gross and incredible superstition which is raging like endemic disease among the lowest class in every direction; and I shall have every cause to rejoice, if, on view of what has now been laid before you by pen and pencil, any one of your numerous readers and abler contributors should succeed in solving the difficulty, and remove thereby a dangerous, degrading, and false impression.

Witcombe, near Exmouth.

G. M. M.

As much interest has been excited by these extraordinary foot-tracks, I beg to offer you a few remarks in explanation of what I have observed in this neighbourhood (Topsham). Myself and another medical friend bestowed considerable time in endeavouring to discover the peculiarities of this most singular impression. The outline, certainly, in all cases resembles that of a hoof, which has given rise to the idea of its supernatural origin among the ignorant; but, on more minute examination of the tracks, we could distinctly see the impressions of the toes and pad of the foot of an animal; a rough draft of which I showed to a friend of mine in Exeter, and, without any comment on my part, he recognised it as that of the otter, being well acquainted with that animal and its habits.

I have enclosed you a rough Diagram of the impressions which we observed within the hoof-like tracks; the outside toes were larger than the rest. I am not acquainted with the otter myself; but of this I am fully convinced, that the animal, be it what it may, is of low stature, from the tracks having shown it to have passed uninterruptedly under the branches of shrubs, &c., not more than eight or nine inches from the ground; and in a neighbouring village it went through a six-inch pipe drain. It must be borne in mind that most rivers have been frozen over for some weeks, and therefore the otters have thus been prevented from obtaining their usual food—namely fish; and when such is the case, they ramble many miles in search of other food.

The otter is not a rare animal in this neighbourhood, and frequents the streams near Exmouth, Lymington, Woodbury, Budleigh, Topsham, Clyst, the river Exe (in all which parishes tracks have been seen), as well as Dawlish, Torquay, Totnes, &c. The tracks in this parish we observed going in contrary directions; we did not notice any in a direct line, but in alternate steps, forming two parallel lines of steps. We also saw tracks on a low wall, and over the tiles of a linhay, and in several instances it had visited the summer-houses and tool-houses of gardens; in all of which portions of the same characteristics were more or less traceable, the ball or pad in the centre being more frequent than the others. Its visits have been repeated in some localities of this town.

Topsham, Feb. 26th, 1855.

Let your Correspondent, "South Devon," who furnished the accounts of footmarks published in your Number of Feb. 24th inst. know that if he, on any future occasion, should see such footmarks, he may, on accurate examination, discover a heelmark and three toemarks—made probably by the foot of the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*). The two ends of the asinine sheepprints in your Number of last week are probably those of the two outer toes; and the upper rounded end, the cushioned junction of the toes at the heel end. I saw marks of this sort on Saturday, the 24th inst., after the commencement of the thaw on the Friday, and do not doubt of their being such as I have named. What I saw had evidently (although the thaw had partially obliterated them) a central third linear impression.

ORNITH.

RUSSIAN INTRIGUE.—Brussels has been selected by the Czar as a focus for intrigues, carried on by a well-organised party of both sexes entitled to leading positions in society. Orleanists and Republicans, Legitimists and Mazzinists, Orangists and Catholics, are all made use of in their turn. Ready pens and ready editors are found for getting up pamphlets, which are either sent back to Germany for distribution and translation, or are smuggled into France for perusal in the original. Brussels was a sort of quiescent English colony, which never troubled itself with political questions. It is now converted into a sort of little Russia, where the Czar's subjects are located for no other purpose than political machinations. Each, whether male or female, has his or her part to play, with the full knowledge and sanction of the St. Petersburg police and Foreign-office, and under special instructions and for special purposes. The grand objects committed to their furtherance are to vilify and ridicule the French Emperor; to cast discredit upon his Government; to misrepresent and distort all acts and intentions of the British Cabinet and nation; after the principle of the Pan-Russian Berlin party; to spread rumours of Russian successes and Allied disasters, even to extermination; to exhibit the Czar as a model of peaceful disinterestedness, the arch-key of Christendom, the sole barrier against demagogic, and the sole guardian of property and possession; to assert that Russia is impregnable and her finances inexhaustible; and to affirm that her sixty-four millions of serf population is as a giant to pigmy, when compared with sixty-three millions of United French and English. Thus it is that the ramifications of Russian intrigues are extended throughout the whole so-called "neutral" line, from the Memel to the Rhine, and thence to the Schildt and Sambre. Nor is money spared. The sum devoted by her to secret-service purposes is nearly equal to that expended annually on her legitimate diplomacy.—*Letter from Berlin*.

WHY MUST THE ARMY EAT SALT PORK?—We have had great fun with the recipes for cooking rations which appear in the papers. M. Soyer's were good and simple, but every one of them had been found out by experiment months ago, and were familiar, however little successful, to every camp cook. The recipes which teach the men how to make rations palatable by the help of a "sliced turkey," nutmegs, butter, flour, spices, and suet, are cruel mockeries. Can any one tell us why the army *must* eat salt pork? Why is this the only meat except beef that is served out? The lean is always very hard and tough, and requires great care and trouble in cooking to make it masticable—the fat is ever in undue proportion to the lean, and is far too "rich" for a debilitated stomach. Are "pigs" a national institution, to be maintained at any cost? Is the flesh of the bull a part of the Constitution? A soldier is a very dear animal. A crop of them is most difficult to raise, and, once they have been fully grown, and have become ripe soldiers, they are beyond all price. Have we not got abundance of meats in our warehouses, of vegetables, of all kinds of nutritious preparations to bestow on those who are left to us, and who are really "veterans," for in the narrow limits of this one campaign they have epitomised all the horrors, the dangers, and the triumphs of war? The ration, with its accessories of sugar, tea or coffee, tobacco, and rice, was sufficient as long as it was unfailing, and while the army was in full health; but it is not sufficient, or, rather, it is not suitable, when the men are debilitated from excessive weakness.—*Letter from the Camp, Feb. 12.*

COAL IN THE CRIMEA.—The British Government have contracted with that of Turkey to render available for the supply of the English steamers the coal-fields of Erekli or Heraclea, which are to be worked by the English. A considerable reinforcement of pitmen was shortly expected from England to strengthen the hands of the staff now on the spot, who, with their present means, have been able to deliver coals of excellent quality at a cost under 10s. per ton for actual working expenses. In the meantime it is satisfactory to know that our fleet will experience no difficulty in obtaining fuel for some time to come, the southerly breeze which has lately prevailed having brought into Constantinople several score of coal-laden vessels which had been impeded by contrary winds in the Mediterranean.

CONSUMPTION OF COTTON IN 1854.—Notwithstanding the strikes and turn-outs of the past year, it appears that a larger consumption of cotton has taken place in Great Britain than at any previous period, the quantity in 1853 being 350,000,000 of lbs. weight; in 1845, 597,000,000; in 1852, 745,000,000; in 1853, 734,000,000; and in 1854, 750,000,000. The increase upon last year's deliveries to the trade of Great Britain, Messrs Du Fay and Co. observe, is 6 2-5 per cent; to Russia, Germany, Holland, and Belgium, an increase of 3 1/2 per cent; to France of 3 1/2 per cent; to Spain of 2 per cent; and a decrease to the trade of the United States of America of 8 per cent. The increase of consumption in this country, in the face of strikes and bad trade, is accounted for by the fact that manufacturers have been much more generally engaged on heavy fabrics—fabrics in which more raw material and less labour are employed.

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M. MINIE.

IT is strange that the career of a man whose inventions have revolutionised warfare should have remained, up to the present time, an untold story. Circumstances have afforded the writer an opportunity of communicating to the public an outline of the picture that, at a future time, must show to the world the claims which M. Minié has upon its gratitude. His weapon has borne his name into every quarter of the globe. At this moment it protects the besiegers of Sebastopol; at this moment it is being copied for the use of the American army; at this moment a ship is on her voyage to the Crimea, with 4,000,000 Minié cartridges. No impediment has been placed in the way of the general adoption of an invention calculated to serve the Allied armies. With unerring aim the French *tirailleurs* drive the Russians from their guns—thanks to the Minié rifle.

We may turn from the Crimean battlefield to the fortress of Vincennes. Passing under the heavy gateways guarded by the celebrated Chasseurs (named after the building) we enter the citadel. Without pausing long to notice the pyramids of cannon-balls; to examine the hundreds of thousands of muskets in the arsenal; to remark the marble France weeping over the bones of the Duke d'Enghien, we turn to a long line of plain buildings on the right, where the *chef du tir* resides. Here, quietly doing his work, unnoticed, teaching literally "the young idea how to shoot," and in his leisure time shut up in his little workshop, lives the *chef d'escadron*, Minié. For fourteen years he has been at Vincennes; and under his eye those terrible regiments which are now the glory of the French army have been drilled. He began life as a private soldier, having volunteered at an early age. By degrees, under the frown of power often, he has passed the various grades which lie between the private and the *chef d'escadron*. His inventions have, however, brought him his share of mockery, but not half his proper share of honours. Under Louis Philippe, when the tricolor bade fair to become a pudding-cloth or at best a pocket-handkerchief for the convenience of an *agent de change*, and when the sentimental felt a strong inclination to turn bayonets into ploughshares, Minié could not hope to find encouragement in high quarters. He began his career by learning, with a passionate love of his one idea, all that had been done before him in the matter of arms. He made many, many failures before he achieved a single success. He had to bear up against an Artillery Committee composed of Generals who hated changes; and probably enjoyed a notion that it was contrary to the Articles of War for a subaltern to exhibit a genius above that of his superior officer. His war with the lovers of routine grew hot; at last, it reached a climax, and the inventor of the Minié rifle heard that his dismissal from the service of his country had been actually signed. At this critical period of his history M. Minié enjoyed the protection of a man now cast from power, but who was then a Prince of the reigning house, and, I believe, resident at Vincennes. I allude to the Duke of Montpensier. To the influence of this Prince M. Minié owed the withdrawal of his degradation; and at the present time it becomes a duty doubly onerous to acknowledge heartily such a service. This incident does infinite honour to Louis Philippe's youngest son.

Assured of his position, M. Minié now resumed his studies. Established in the fortress of Vincennes, he gave up his time to the shooting-gallery and the experiments he loved to make in arms. It was not, however, till the year 1848 that he disclosed improvements of an important nature. From that time up to the present, the improvements he had then effected in rifles, the conical ball, the Minié cartridge, &c., have successively engaged the attention of all inquiring military men. The value of his practical ingenuity was soon appreciated abroad. Offers, some of them very tempting, reached the commandant at Vincennes. Speculators were ready to assure him fortune; agents were willing to give him tempting terms. He declined every offer. Among the tempters were Russian agents, who offered him the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, an establishment, &c., to live in, and a good salary, if he would proceed to St. Petersburg. This offer was made to him two years successively; and to the honour of M. Minié it should be added that he firmly declined the bargain on both occasions. He declared that he was a soldier and a Frenchman; that he was not a com-

mercial man who followed out his experiments for the sole purpose of realising so much money; but that it was his intention to offer any improvements he might make in arms to his Sovereign. It was his belief that his inventions belonged, by right, to the head of the State.

The Portrait which accompanies this sketch was taken a few days ago in M. Minié's atelier, where he was surrounded by all kinds of unfinished arms, heaps of bullets and bullet-moulds, tools of all kinds, &c. Of the engines of war likely to issue shortly from this atelier, I am, of course, not permitted to speak at length. If his adopted rifle be regarded, however, as a wonderful arm, what will be said of the terrible instrument he is about to present to the Emperor? Holding it in his hand, he pointed to its mechanism, and assured me that he had fired twenty rounds of ball-cartridge with it, in the course of a single minute. He also showed me the wonderful series of balls he had tried; they are of every form and weight—conical, circular, with grooves, &c. The ball with which the Imperial Guard is provided is about the size, and closely resembles the form, of a filbert. He proved the excellence of another (not yet made known), calculated to offer the least possible resistance to the air. The force of the breath through a tube sufficed to lodge it in the wall of the room.

It is just to add that France has treated Minié as France treats every man who serves her. The inventor carried one of his rifles to the Emperor; the Emperor's verdict on the weapon was expressed by a twenty-thousand franc note. There was a discussion on the arming of the Imperial Guard;

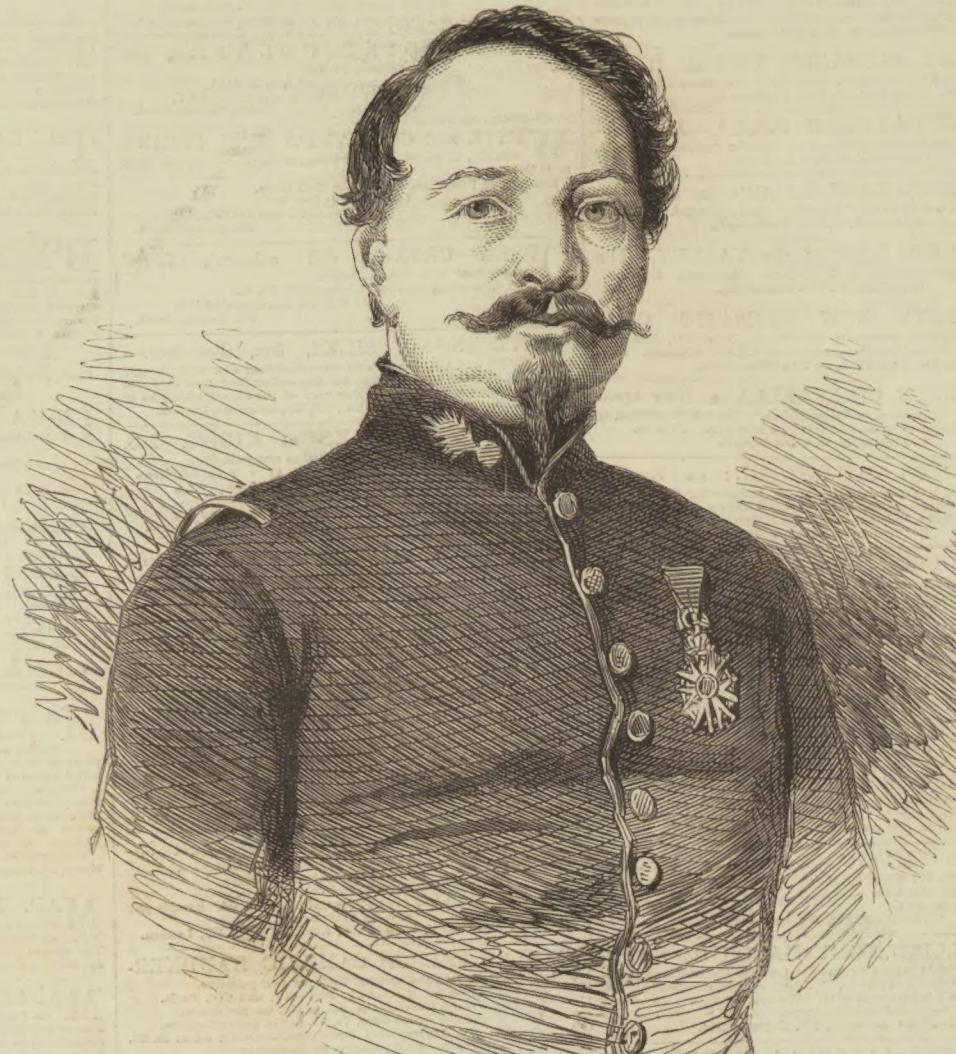
the Emperor sent for the man whose studies best enabled him to give sound advice. Minié went to the Tuilleries. He gave his reasons for the adoption of his own arm. These reasons were found to be good; whereupon the order for his rifles was at once issued. There was no filtering of powers through endless offices; no delays of artillery committees. The accompanying Portrait will show that the inventor of the rifle now in course of adoption in the armies of Europe has been included in the Legion of Honour. The great Stephenson went to his grave an unrecognised man. Minié lives to enjoy the reward of his services—a reward which his country is proud to give him. B. J.

THE COST OF THE GUARDS.—What has been the cost to the country of the men of the brigade of Guards who died in their tents or in hospital of exhaustion, overwork, and deficient or improper nutriment? The brigade musters now very little over 400 men fit for duty. It would have been *cheap* to have fed those men who are gone on turtle and venison, if it could have kept them alive—and not only those, but the poor fellows whom the battle spared, but whom disease has taken from us out of every regiment in the expedition. It is the *men* who are to be pitied—the officers can take care of themselves; they have their bat-horses to go over to Kamiesch and to Balaklava for luxuries; their servants to send for poultry, vegetables, wines, preserved meats, sheep, and all the luxuries of the *settlers' shops*; they have abundance of money, for the pay of the subaltern is ample while he is in the field. An artillery officer the other day told me he was quite disgusted with the grumbling of some men, and the spirit of discontent which existed. "I dine as well every day," said he, "as I could dine in the Palais Royal. I send my servant over to Kamiesch, where things are far cheaper than at Balaklava. I get excellent wine, meat, game, and vegetables there, and my servant, who is a Frenchman, is a first-rate cook." No wonder he could see no reason for grumbling. A few days with Bom bardier Smith might have taught him that all did not fare as luxuriously as himself. He expended a man and horse per diem in maintaining his belly in a comfortable state, and of course he looked at everything through the medium of a good dinner and easy digestion, especially as he belonged to a corps which has been fortunate in being able to use the public horses to get up their huts and to provide themselves with food and forage. Generally the officers, at some expense, cater very well; and what is the result? How many deaths do we see among the officers from "gelatio, diarrhoea, scurvy, dysentery," and all the horrid army of diseases which attack and destroy the common soldier? Take them *pro rata*, and the difference is seen at once; and yet the officer undergoes the inclemency of the weather the same as his men. Many of them do not waste all their substance on themselves. Many a generous fellow lays out his last shilling to buy some little comfort for his company, or to soothe the sufferings of his sick men in hospital. As may be expected, considering their presumed wealth and command of money, the officers of the Guards have been distinguished for their kindness to their men, and or the care they have taken of them. The consciences of all these good men will reward them, and they would blush to see their names blazoned to the world. It is strange to see the pride which the best of our aristocracy and autocracy take in catering. They have all ostentatious pleasure in surrounding themselves with strings of onions and cantering off to the Camp with a live sheep tied round their waists, and a couple of plaintive turkeys or sulky geese pendent from their saddle-bows, and holsters filled with pistols of cognac, and their energy in "boarding" vessels as they arrive is startling. However, it is for their messmates and their friends they take all this trouble, and no man ever goes hungry or thirsty away from the tent of a British officer.—*Letter from the Camp, Feb. 10.*

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

THE NAVAL BRIGADE DRAWING SIEGE-GUNS.

In the several accounts of the siege operations from time to time we read of the Naval Brigade drawing siege-guns down into the trenches; for the accompanying Sketch we have to thank a Correspondent from "the heights above Sebastopol." This arduous duty is thus described:—"Every morning the sailors drag down about three or four 24 and 32-pounders, and leave them behind a hill about half-way down, and at dusk they take them the remaining half under cover of the night. It generally requires about sixty men for each gun."



M. MINIE, INVENTOR OF "THE MINIE RIFLE."



THE NAVAL BRIGADE DRAGGING A HEAVY SIEGE-GUN TO THE GREEN-HILL (CHAPMAN'S) BATTERY.